FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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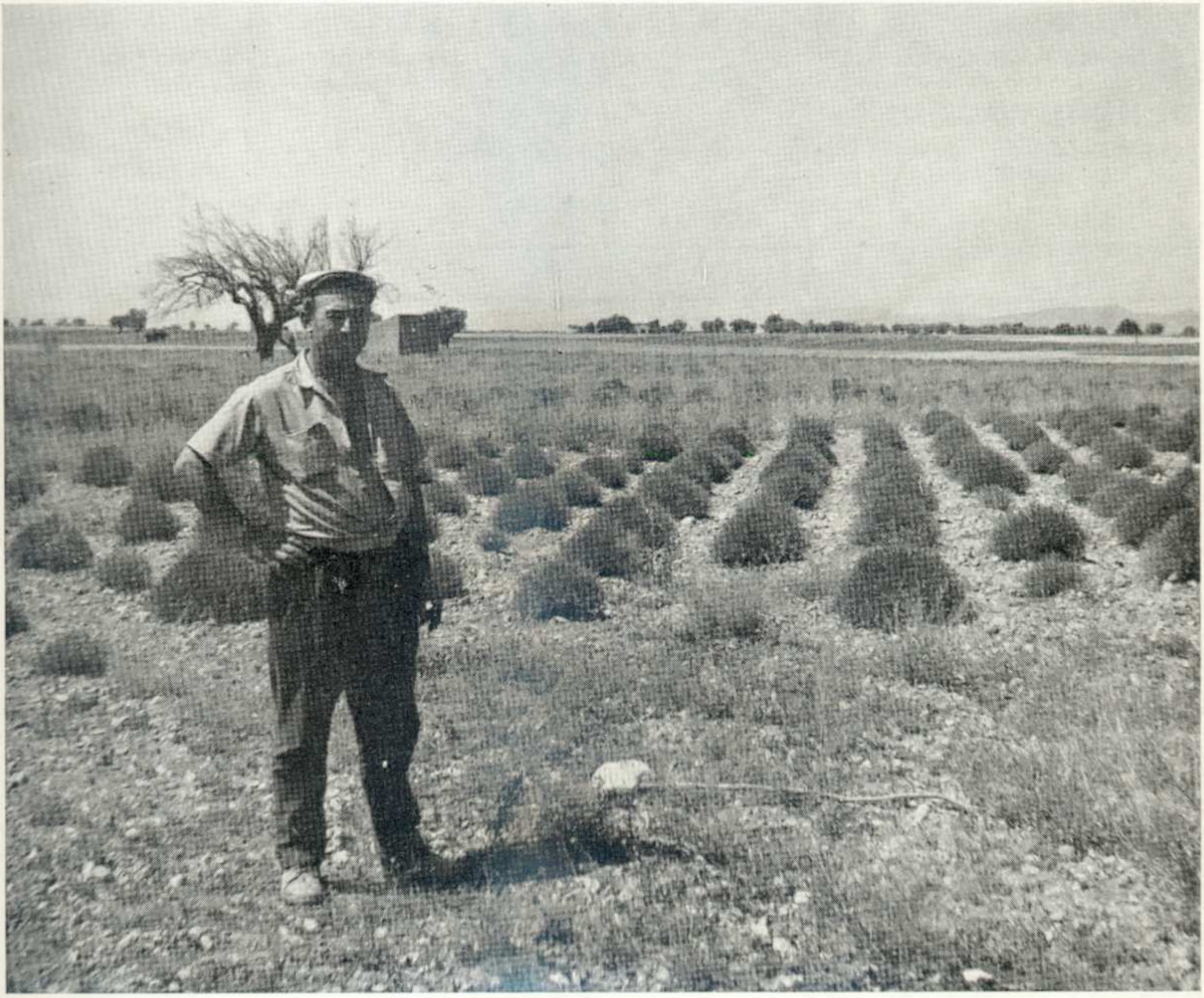

More than two years after the lavender field incident, M. Masse stands at the landing site where only weeds grow.
See . . .

A VISIT TO VALENSOLE

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1968
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FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol 14 No. 1 JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1968

THE PROSPECT BEFORE US

WE wish all our readers a happy and prosperous New Year, and hope that 1968 will see them successful in all they set out to do. Naturally we cannot expect anyone to have great success in the field of UFO research . . . yet. At least, however, we can wish them a measure of success in our chosen field, however small: even small successes in research into such a subject would be more than welcome.

Indeed, if success be measured in terms of numbers of sighting reports to be investigated, then any improvement on the busy UFO days in Britain in 1967 means that we are in for a very active time.

Among our many readers to whom we wish success are, of course, the members of the Condon Committee at the University of Colorado. We presume they *are* among our readers—although we have no guarantee that this is so—because copies of every recent issue, and back numbers, have been sent to them, including *The Humanoids*. Wishes apart, we wonder if they will be successful in what they set out to achieve. There remains one big question: what precisely *have* they set out to achieve?

There are many people interested in the UFO phenomenon who expect great things of the Condon Committee; others hope for just a little comfort from them, a tiny pat on the back; some expect nothing at all; a growing number expect damnation.

In our leading article in the issue for January/February 1967, we looked somewhat gingerly at the prospect then before us as far as the Condon Investigation was concerned. We wondered if the "U.S. Air Force, on finding itself forced into a corner by public pressure and by ridicule of too-facile explanations of UFO reports, (had) undertaken the investigation merely to re-establish its image, and to play for time by side-stepping an awkward situation?" The article continued: "We like to think that this is not the case, but the worry lingers at the back of our minds, thanks to past dealings with officialdom."

It is futile to prejudge the issue, and, as some of our scientist friends have pointed out, for all we know the veiled hints that emanate at intervals from Colorado may merely be a smokescreen designed to keep ufological vested interests at bay while the scientists, psychologists and researchers of the group get on with the job.

Again, there is a small crumb of comfort in that Dr. Edward U. Condon is a scientist of considerable standing and of proven independence of outlook. He is also a professional man, not likely to yield easily to pressure groups, and a man with a reputation for outspokenness.

Unhappily, however, it is just this last quality that last year sowed some seeds of doubt along with those which lingered at the backs of our minds; seeds which germinated and sprouted in even more fertile minds elsewhere. NICAP—National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena of Washington, D.C., an organisation with a long record of dealings with official American institutions, projects and committees—became alarmed by what they called "Dr. Condon's negative attitude". NICAP stated that they had

supplied the Colorado Project with hundreds of factual UFO reports, many of which they believe prove UFO reality. Yet there was Dr. Condon publicly stating in September: "I am almost inclined to think such studies ought to be discontinued unless someone comes up with a new idea on how to approach the problem." NICAP became very perturbed about Dr. Condon's intentions.[1]

Some of our friends in France were also very pessimistic. They were disturbed by the seeming intention of the Condon Committee to base its findings on a narrow parochial list of some 70 United States cases, and to ignore the massive global evidence, including the great French cases, and the massive evidence from South America. One friend—not Aimé Michel, whose recently published views are discussed elsewhere in this issue—remarked gloomily that the Condon findings, being government sponsored, would probably put UFO research back into the Dark Ages of the early 1960s.

We too had one or two minor "worries" to add to those early ones which lingered on, but during the past few weeks these have diminished to seeming insignificance. We admit that we once listened with mounting dismay when trusted friends suggested that maybe the reason behind the setting up of the Colorado Project was a hope that the Committee would give a "scientific" backing to the findings of the Robertson Committee of January, 1953 (and the CIA fourth "debunking" recommendation to boot).

Nevertheless, until nine or ten weeks ago, we felt that despite our misgivings, and those of our friends, we would have to "wait and see" for the Condon report; that, as we say in England, the proof of the pudding would be in the eating. We felt that even if the Condon utterances, and the apparent lack of knowledge of the subject displayed by certain members of the Committee, were only parts of a façade, or smokescreen, the "pudding" would still be indigestible, even bitter, for many. The Committee could not be expected to solve the UFO problem, and we felt they should drop any preconceived notions that it is incumbent upon them to solve it. The best we could then expect was a conclusion that UFOs present a very real problem—but even that seemed like asking for the Moon. That was nine or ten weeks ago.

Now, however, the prospect before us—and the "us" includes the Condon Committee—seems to have undergone a radical change. The Russians have openly entered the field of UFO research. Naturally their intentions are even less likely to be revealed than the intentions of those who set up the Condon Committee. Nevertheless, from reports we have had, it sounds as if they are genuine, and they have certainly established a very powerful permanent commission, aided by a huge team of field researchers.[2]

If the Colorado Project is expected, as some of our friends would have us believe, merely to underline the Robertson Report with its added CIA "debunking" recommendation, and so to sweep the whole troublesome UFO business under the carpet, then they will have to think again, and quickly. If they fail to do so, then the Russians may step smartly into the lead in the field of UFO research, and collect all the credit that may be going.

If the intention behind the Colorado project is genuine, then we have the interesting prospect that the gentlemen of Colorado will have to be getting down to even harder work behind their smokescreen. The race between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R.—to be first with the answer—will be on, and no holds barred!

A final word of warning. Whichever way the situation develops, we must not lose sight of the fact that for some time to come we will probably learn little of any consequence. The prospect before *us* is that, as always, we will have to "go it alone".

NOTES

[1] See extract from *The UFO Investigator* on page 5.
[2] See FSR Vol. 13, No. 6, November/December 1967, page 2.

THE HUMANOIDS

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Remarkable Sighting Near Dorset Coast

Report of UFO observed at Moinge Downs, 1½ miles north of Ringstead Bay, between Weymouth and Lulworth Cove, Dorset, England. Could have this been the object observed in the "Flying Cross" sightings?

By ANGUS BROOKS

Date of Observation

October 26, 1967. Time: 11.25 a.m. to 11.47 a.m. British Summer Time. Position: Grid Reference 755833 ordnance survey map (1 inch/1 mile), Gt. Britain Sheet 178 (DORCHESTER). Weather at time: Clear sky with small amount of low cloud. Wind: S.S.W., Force 8 (‡).

Details of Observation

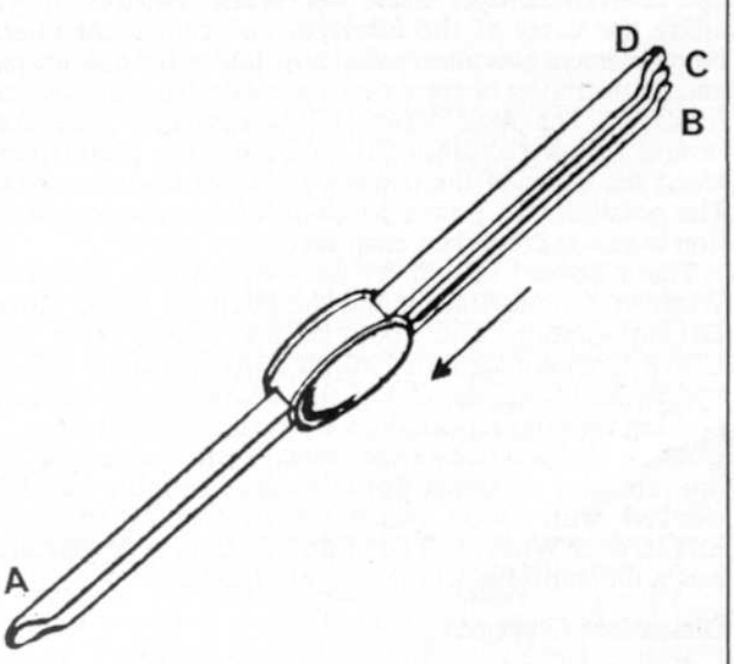
Walking dogs across downs, I decided to shelter from high wind by lying flat on my back in shallow indentation on hill at side of valley. I was dressed in green waterproof anorak and trousers; the dogs (a Dalmatian and an Alsatian bitch, 12 years old) were roaming around searching for game.

Almost immediately I observed a fine "con" trail—or it could have been reflection of "craft" very high in sky over Portland area. This disappeared, and into my view, descending at lightning speed came the "craft" which decelerated with what appeared to be immensely powerful reverse thrust, to level out at approximately quarter mile to South of my position and at approximately 200-300 ft. height.

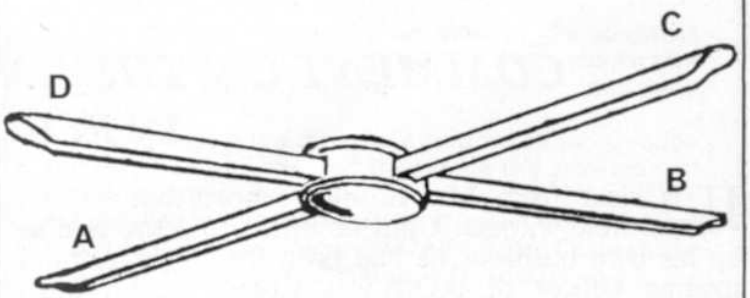
The shape of the "craft" prior to levelling out to "hover" position was of a central circular chamber with a leading fuselage in the front and three separate fuselages together at the rear. On slowing to "hover" position, the two outer fuselages at the rear moved to position at side of "craft" to form four fuselages at equidistant position around centre chamber. There were no visible power units and no noise of applied power for reverse thrust, movement of fuselages, or for "hovering". On attaining "hover" the "craft" rotated 90° clockwise and then remained motionless, unaffected by very strong wind.

The "craft" remained in this position for the next 22 minutes and I remained, rather apprehensive, in my position. There was no noise that I could hear, but my Alsatian returned to my side and appeared very distraught, would take no notice of orders to "sit", or "down", and pestered me to move on. There could have been a VHF sound which she was picking up which was enough to pain her. On four subsequent visits to the area she has (with witnesses) been very distressed on each occasion.

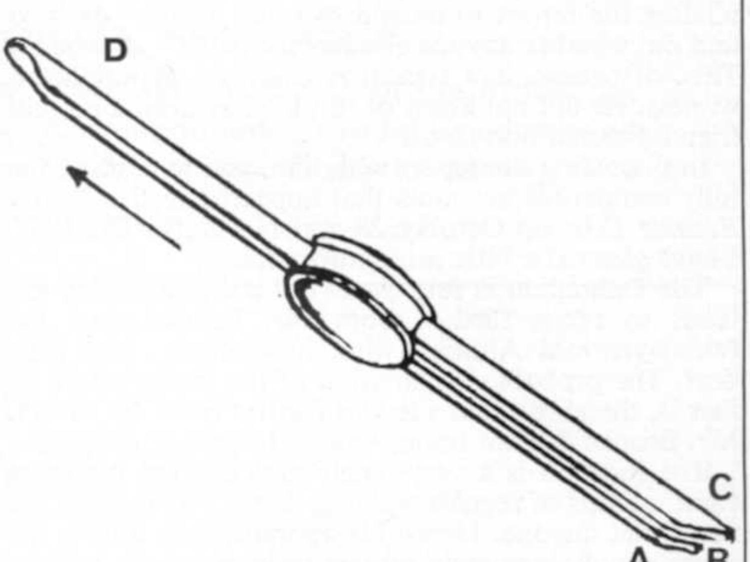
As seen from my horizontal position, the "craft's" construction was of a translucent material—the colour of the "craft" took on the colour of the sky above it and changed with clouds passing over it—and there



Arrival fuselage positions



Hovering fuselage positions



Departure fuselage positions

could have been a clear material at the top of fuselages and centre chamber. There were dark centre shadows along the bases of the fuselages and centre chamber. No movement was observed at any time of the operators, and no portholes or crew viewing windscreens at nose of fuselages. The nose cones of the fuselages were the reverse to our conventional types, and the groove fins along the bases of the fuselages did not open or close. The possibility of power passing through the construction material could be considered.

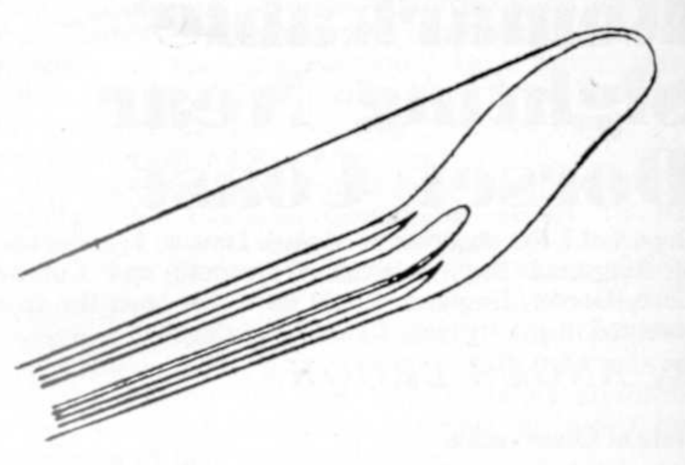
The "hover" position was equidistant between Winfrith Atomic Station and the Portland Underwater Defence Station, and about a mile inland from the USAF Communications Unit at Ringstead Bay. When approached later, the CO of the USAF unit confirmed nothing unusual reported on October 26, 1967.

At 11.47 a.m., two of the fuselages moved around to line up with a centre third fuselage and the "craft" climbed with speed increasing to "light" standard E.N.E. over Winfrith. The "lead" fuselage on departure was a different one to the arrival "lead".

Dimensions (Approx.)

Centre Chamber: Diameter 25 ft., Height 12 ft. Fuselages: Length 75 ft., Height 7 ft., Width 8 ft.

NOTE: The possibility of atomic refuelling action taking place by "craft" from Winfrith Atomic Power Station reactors has been investigated, but spokesman of A.E.A. Winfrith stated (November 30, 1967): ". . . there had been no untoward reactor power fluctuations on date and time of observation". Questioned of the possibility of UFOs refuelling from an atomic pile the answer was "No comment". It may be of interest to Committees studying UFOs to check with Atomic Stations in "sightings" areas if any reactor fluctuations have been registered.



Details of ribbing or fins on underside of fuselage

COMMENT ON THE ANGUS BROOKS SIGHTING

By R. H. B. Winder

IT is clear from Mr. Brooks' report that he is a responsible witness. Until he opted to retire and set up his own business, he had been the Flight Administrating Officer of B.O.A.C.'s Comet Flight, much respected by his colleagues and known to them as a very methodical person. He has a passing acquaintance with the subject of UFOs and is not a sceptic, but has read very little of the literature. His primary object in sending the report to us and to other authorities is to find out whether anyone else has seen anything similar. This, of course, is a typical reaction of an intelligent witness. He did not know of this REVIEW until a mutual friend directed him to us.

In discussing the report with him, and in reading the fully compatible accounts that appeared in the *Dorset Evening Echo* on October 28 and November 22, 1967, I have gleaned a little more information:

The Dalmatian is four years old and, on walks, she tends to range further from Mr. Brooks than the twelve-year-old Alsatian who, incidentally, is a little deaf. The probable explanation of the puppy's lack of fear is, therefore, that she was further from the object. Mr. Brooks did not notice where she was at the time.

The location is a very lonely and isolated place. In eight months of regular walking there, Mr. Brooks has never met anyone. Hence his apprehension during the uncommonly long sighting. He feels, however, that he was quite well camouflaged by his clothing. He admits to being very impressed by the fine construction of the thing, which he rates as much superior to any of our home-made efforts and clearly of a different origin. In fact he says that he became very absorbed and felt somewhat detached after five minutes of watching it.

The object itself, although behaving in a very typical way, is of an exceptional shape. I cannot at present recall any precedent, although I realise that it could be associated with several of the "Flying Star" descriptions given by other witnesses around the same period. It is difficult to rationalise the four "fuselages". They are certainly not aerodynamic, and it is unlikely that they have anything to do with propulsion. I say this because the central disc is quite saucer-like and, as we know very well, a disc of that size would alone be fully capable of the performance described.

In fact, one way of looking at the problem is to regard this object as a modification of a standard saucer for some special purpose sufficiently important to justify the obvious encumberance. For example, if the craft were electrically or hydromagnetically driven, the regions of intense ionisation or high magnetic field strength close to its centre would interfere with certain radio-type transmitters or receivers and upset any magnetic instruments. The extensions might therefore have been devised to remove such instruments from those regions. However, that does not explain the use of four arms. We would not expect one to be used, because it might upset the balance of the craft, but it is difficult to understand why two should not suffice and, indeed, eliminate the folding procedure which is presumably necessary to reduce drag during flight.

Don't ask me why different arms led during arrival and departure!

It seems necessary therefore to seek further for an explanation of the crosslike configuration adopted during hover. It is, I think relevant to consider what observations or measurements would be likely to demand instruments located at the four corners of a square, or to require two or four linear devices (possibly antennae), intersecting at right angles. Perhaps some of our electrical and electronic friends could suggest an explanation.

The description of the material of construction is unambiguous and corresponds well with other sightings in which translucence or transparency has been mentioned. The sudden stop after the descent is reminiscent of Mr. Russell's account of the rapid fall and abrupt halt of the object that he photographed over Streatham on December 15, 1966 (see FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, January/February and March/April, 1967). The high-speed departure is also typical. Mr. Brooks' use of the words "light standard" is deliberately intended to indicate a rate that his eyes could not follow.

Mr. Brooks is not certain that the contrail, although unusual in appearance, was associated with the object. He is absolutely certain of his description of the craft as seen at close quarters and so competently recorded in his sketches and his text. Those who know him have no doubt that he saw a real and exceptional flying device, and I see no cause why anyone else should not accept his word for it. We are indebted to him for a most interesting, albeit puzzling, account.

London—December 7, 1967.

NOTE: The footnote is an interesting example of a thoughtful witness seeking explanations for the things he saw. I am afraid that the particular speculation is not viable, because nuclear reactors are specifically designed not to radiate energy beyond their shielding.

NICAP VIEW OF THE COLORADO PROJECT

From *The UFO Investigator** for October 1967

"When the Air Force-sponsored scientific UFO project was established at the University of Colorado in 1966, both the Air Force and Dr. Edward U. Condon, project head, stated that this was to be an unbiased, independent investigation.

"In the past year, NICAP has supplied the Colorado project with hundreds of factual UFO reports, many of which we believe prove UFO reality. We have visited the project, aided its scientists in investigations and provided valuable background information—all on the premise that this was an honest scientific investigation. Based on our personal acquaintance with the scientists involved, we firmly believe that most of them are operating on an honest basis and intend to arrive at a conclusion based on solid evidence.

"Several times, however, Dr. Condon has made negative public statements about UFOs, even though he has taken no part in any field investigations of sightings. Some press media and members of the public have, therefore, questioned Condon's objectivity.

" 'I'm almost inclined to think such studies ought to be discontinued unless someone comes up with a new idea on how to approach the problem,' the project head said in a September speech. An effective investigation programme, he further stated, would cost $50 million a year and 'even then you wouldn't have any guarantee you'd have anything'.

"We believe, however, that most of the scientists are sufficiently enough impressed by the evidence that they would strongly object to a negative unilateral conclusion."

NICAP have put a series of questions to Dr. Condon and Mr. Robert Low, and they hope the answers will help clarify the situation.

* Published by the National Investigations Commission on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), 1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C., 20036.

SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY UFO GROUP

We are pleased to learn from the President, J. S. Wright, B.Sc., of the formation, last November, of a new UFO research group. Correspondence should be addressed to the Group's Secretary, C. W. Osborne, B.A., at the Students' Union, The University, Southampton.

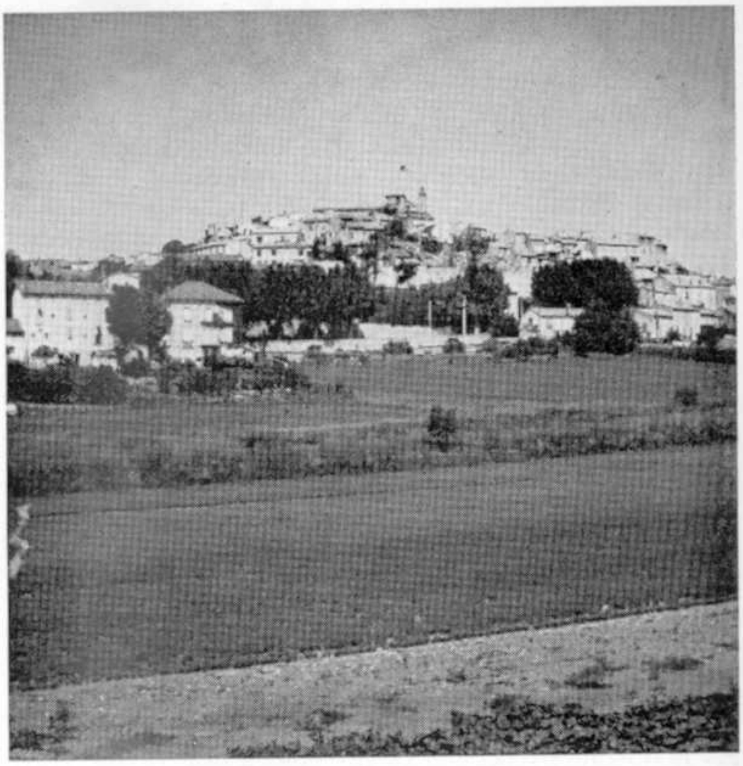
DON'T FORGET . . .

Tell your friends about

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

A VISIT TO VALENSOLE

by Aimé Michel and Charles Bowen



Valensole, from the lavender distillery

THE TUMULT and the shouting had long since died when we contrived to visit the small Provençal town of Valensole. It seemed that the startling event in the lavender field which occurred on the morning of July 1, 1965, had been forgotten, until we reminded ourselves that the official reaction to the Marliens marks[1] had shown otherwise.

Back in 1965, M. Maurice Masse, the witness—or victim, if you prefer it that way—had been left shattered and dazed by his alleged experience with the humanoid occupants of the "saucer", and from the hammering he received from journalists, police and other official investigators, researchers and curiosity-seekers. Rumour had it that he had wearied of the case; that he wished he had never blurted out his bizarre story to the proprietor of the Café des Sports.

As far as we are concerned—and if we here sound callous, it is certainly not with deliberate intent—we can only say we are thankful he was so shocked that he was unable to control either his emotions or his tongue for those few brief moments, for we consider the Valensole Affair to be one of the most important cases in the history of the subject.[2] For the benefit of those to whom Valensole is only a name, we have recapitulated brief details of the case: these appear in an adjoining panel.

We have often wondered how M. Masse had fared since his ordeal. When, earlier this year (1967) we learned of other sighting reports from the district, a visit to Valensole was clearly indicated.

Aimé Michel. What better opportunity than August 1967, some two months and seven weeks after the original landing, when Charles Bowen and his family were visiting France for a holiday?

Charles Bowen. On the morning of August 21, with Aimé Michel at the wheel, an exciting drive over breathtaking Alpine passes and through magnificent gorges, brought us quickly to Digne. There we were joined by Aimé's brother Gustave Michel, who was accompanied by his daughter Sylvane.

South of Digne, a long and sharply winding ascent took the cars up on to the great plateau of Valensole. I confess my imagination boggled when, from afar, I saw this plateau for the first time, for it looks like the base of some enormous mountain, the top of which had been removed by a scything cataclysmic blow. . . .

A.M. I suspect my friend's imagination has been nourished by too much Velikovsky. The Valensole plateau is of *alluvial* origin. It is a huge deposit of alluvium, gashed later by the valleys which form the surrounding country.

C.B. I bow to Aimé Michel's intimate knowledge of the geological origins of his beloved Alps.

This unique tableland stands fully 1,000 ft. above the surrounding valleys, and beyond its periphery the Alpine ranges begin to dwindle towards the Mediterranean.

Once up on the plateau, the surface is seen to stretch away as far as the eye can see, and it is covered for the most part with millions of lavender plants which are all arranged in precise rows. The monotony of the landscape is barely broken by the occasional house or hut, a small vineyard here and there, with a few olive trees and an occasional mulberry tree. The sweet smell of lavender pervades the whole of the region.

A.M. The plateau is immense, and although we travelled quickly, there was ample time to discuss many things. In particular I talked of the sighting of an unusual object which had been seen and reported by the astronomers of the St. Michel Observatory. As we approached the village of Valensole, I was on the lookout for a gap in the mountains which we could see at intervals to the West beyond the plateau, for it is beyond these mountains that the Observatory is situated.

Here is the account which I told Charles. . . .

The St. Michel Observatory sighting

Towards the end of September 1965, about three months after the incident at l'Olivol (the name of M. Masse's field), an astronomer friend of mine informed me of the following fact:

At about 3 a.m., local time, in the night of September 17/18, three astronomers who had just finished work stepped out of the cupola to take a breath of fresh air. The night sky was clear and they were able to identify with ease the lights—very familiar to them—of the various villages, far and near. But towards the ESE—in a direction that they were able to pinpoint with great precision in relation to the mountains—precisely in the direction of the peak marked 1577m. lying to the SE of the village of Aiguine, but much lower down, and on the exact level of the Valensole Plateau, they beheld a large stationary ovoid-shaped, orange-red light. They watched this light for 10-15 minutes without seeing any change in its position or its appearance, nor did it flicker as the flames of a fire would have done. A solid object emitting its own light would have looked no different. The three astronomers wondered what it could be, but none of them dared to suggest that they remain there until something happened and, feeling a bit uneasy, they went off to bed.

I made discreet enquiries of the Valensole Gendarmerie as to whether anything had flown over there that night or any other night before or after the night of September 17 (in case by any chance the astronomers, who had made no notes about it straight away at the time, might have been mistaken by a day or two on the date). I asked the Gendarmes whether there had been any fire or night-time conflagration, or anything similar. There had been nothing, they said, and no marks of any sort had been found or reported anywhere on the Plateau.

I then spoke about this matter to a physicist friend of mine who is in charge of certain work at the laboratory which the Ecole Normale Supérieure of Paris maintains at Valensole. This friend drew my attention to the fact that this Valensole laboratory, where certain phenomena of the Ionosphere are studied, possesses aerials stretching in a line for a distance of one hundred metres on top of a series of pylons, and that the tops of all these pylons are sometimes illuminated at night by lamps. Perhaps, he suggested, the astronomers might have seen all these lamps bunched together as it were by the perspective? (For the pylons run in an oblique line in relation to the direction in which the St. Michel Observatory lies). A phone call to the laboratory sufficed to give us the assurance that the lamps on the pylons had never been turned on during the period in question.

However, in order to be able to rule out this possibility absolutely, two experiments were arranged. In the course of a good clear night, the lamps were turned on for five minutes and then turned off for five minutes, this being repeated a number of times. Then, on another night with excellent visibility, the lamps were turned on for half an hour, without break. On neither of these occasions, and even with the help of powerful binoculars, was anything glimpsed of the lamps.

These two experiments proved that the Valensole laboratory of the Ecole Normale Supérieure is invisible from the Observatory, which fact it is in any case easy to establish by crossing the Valensole Plateau, from which the Observatory's domes (the largest in Europe, and of a silvery-white colour) are only visible along a

BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE INCIDENT AT VALENSOLE ON JULY 1, 1965

On several mornings during June, 1965, M. Maurice Masse and his father, lavender growers of Valensole in the Basses Alpes of France, discovered with growing annoyance that someone had been picking shoots from plants in their field named l'Olivol. On the morning of July 1, 1965, at about 5.45 a.m., Maurice Masse was finishing a cigarette before commencing work on l'Olivol. He was standing near a hillock of pebbles and rakings by the end of a small vineyard alongside the field. Suddenly he heard a whistling noise, and glanced round the side of the hillock expecting to see a helicopter; instead, he saw a "machine" shaped like a rugby football, the size of a *Dauphine* car, standing on six legs with a central pivot stuck into the ground. There were also "two boys of about eight years" near the object, bending down by a lavender plant.

Incensed, Masse approached stealthily through the vineyard and saw that the creatures were not boys at all; he broke cover and advanced towards them. When he was within five metres of them, one turned and pointed a pencil-like instrument at him. Masse was stopped in his tracks unable to move. (Aimé Michel has suggested that he was immobilised by a form of hypnotic suggestion. If it had been muscular paralysis, Masse would have died.)

According to Masse's testimony the creatures were less than 4 feet tall, and were clad in close-fitting grey-green clothes, but without head covering. They had pumpkin-like heads, high fleshy cheeks, large eyes which slanted away, mouths without lips, and very pointed chins. They made grumbling noises from their middles. Masse will not disclose what happened during the encounter, and says that after a while they returned to their "machine". He could see them looking at him from inside while the legs whirled and retracted. With a thump from the central pivot, the machine took off to float silently away. At 20 metres it just disappeared, although traces of its passage in the direction of Manosque were found on lavender plants for 400 metres.

When he recovered mobility, a confused and frightened M. Masse rushed back to Valensole. There, the proprietor of the Café des Sports saw him and, alarmed by his appearance, questioned him. Masse blurted out part of his story; the proprietor could not contain himself, and the news quickly broke.

quite narrow strip of terrain between the Volx rocks, on the right bank of the River Durance. **The field called l'Olivol is precisely in the middle of this strip.**

If astronomers with binoculars had looked in this direction on the morning of July 1, 1965, they would have had a perfect view, at a distance of 23 kilometres, of the scene of M. Masse's experience now so familiar to us, and in that case perhaps we should know a good deal more about it all.

Journey's end

C.B. The account of the St. Michel Observatory sighting saw us almost to the end of the long straight road beside the northern edge of the plateau. Suddenly the road dropped in a long curve, and the cars swept into a typical Provençal village. We had arrived at Valensole, and I for one was thankful to see the tree-lined main thoroughfare with its welcome shade from the blazing sunshine.

M. Gustave Michel—a retired warrant officer of police—went straight to the gendarmerie, where he is well known. We hoped to learn where we could find M. Masse.

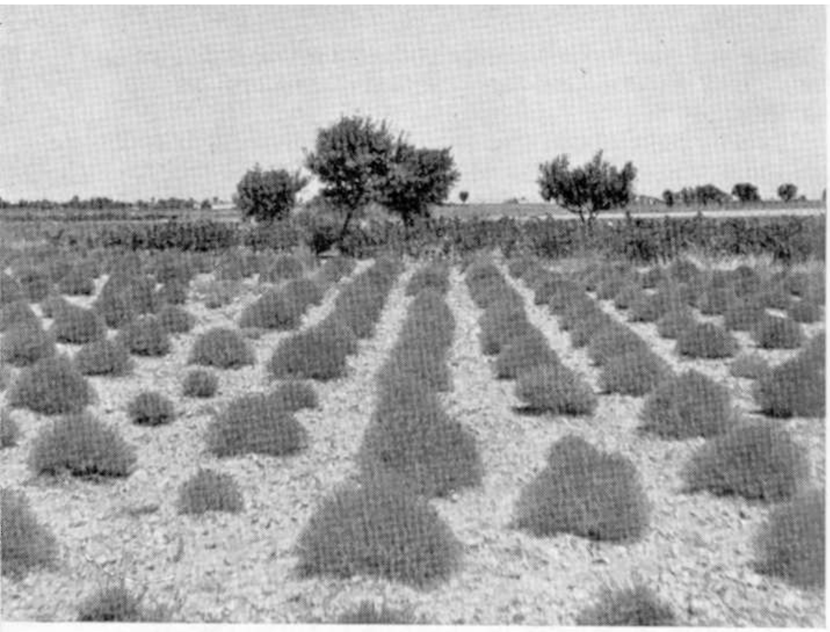
It was immediately apparent to me that M. Masse is both well known to the police, and respected by them. There were no jokes. We had to appreciate, they said, that M. Masse was a very busy man, especially at this time of the year: we might find him at the lavender water distillery of which he is joint owner with three other farmers.

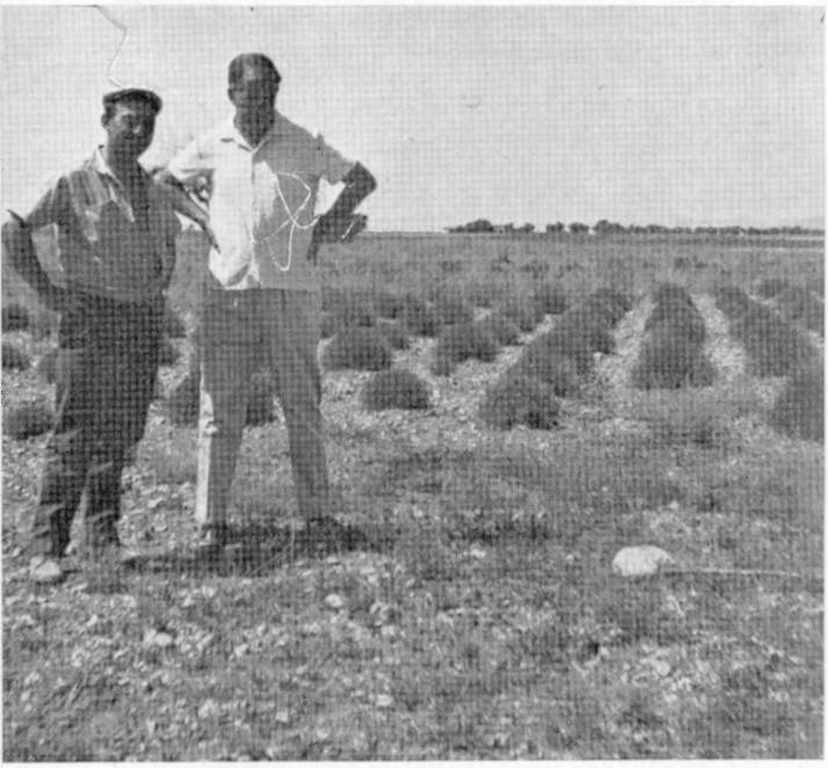
We drove on for about half a kilometre from the southern edge of the village until we came to the distillery. He was not there, but was expected to return in a few minutes, so we passed the time of day chatting to one of the other joint owners, and to some of the workmen. They entertained no doubts about the sincerity of M. Masse: we also learned one or two other interesting things before his Peugeot was seen coming down from the village.

I confess I found the conversation in the Provençal accent at times difficult to follow, so I gladly leave the account of the ensuing discussion to my friend, who also has a few things to say about his original meetings with the witness in 1965.

August 1965 interrogations

A.M. I had not seen M. Masse again since August 8, 1965, although many people, including some Valensole residents, had kept me informed of all he had been doing and saying. I found him again just as he was before, as regards his personality, that is to say calm and patient. But, on the other hand, I was very much struck by the complete change in his attitude towards his strange adventure. In 1965 he had appeared anxious, nervous, and on two occasions even distressed. The first time he was distressed—and I even saw his





Top: **From the landing place, looking towards the corner of the vineyard, with the hillock behind the trees**

Middle: **The landing place; M. Masse with the Editor**

Lower: **Mlle. Michel stands where the machine stood with Aimé Michel and Martin Bowen acting as "little men"**

hands trembling—was when I was moving my compass to and fro near his watch, and he saw the compass needle move. "Then—what about me?" he cried. "Haven't I too been touched by anything? By a ray?"

The second occasion on which he was overcome was at the end of the interrogation by my brother and myself, over an incident which I refrained from publishing at the time but which I communicated to a few people, among them Charles Bowen and Gordon Creighton. Before going to Valensole, on August 8, 1965, I had wished to make a thorough study beforehand of the Socorro case, so I had asked friends to let me have all the data available. Among the documents received, there was a coloured picture of a model reconstituted from the description given by Lonnie Zamora of the object that he had seen. When I was absolutely sure that I had obtained from M. Masse all the details that he had decided to give me, I took the photograph of the model out of my brief-case and showed it to him.

The effect produced on him was fantastic. I had the impression that, on seeing that image, M. Masse was at his last gasp, as though he had just looked upon his own death.

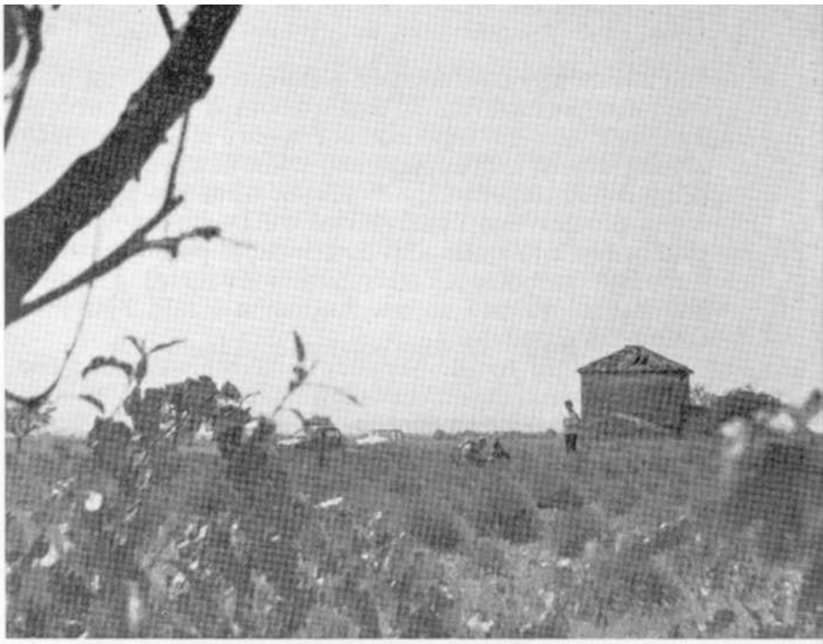
At first he thought that somebody had photographed *his* machine. When he learnt that this one had been seen in the United States by a policeman, he seemed relieved, and said to me:

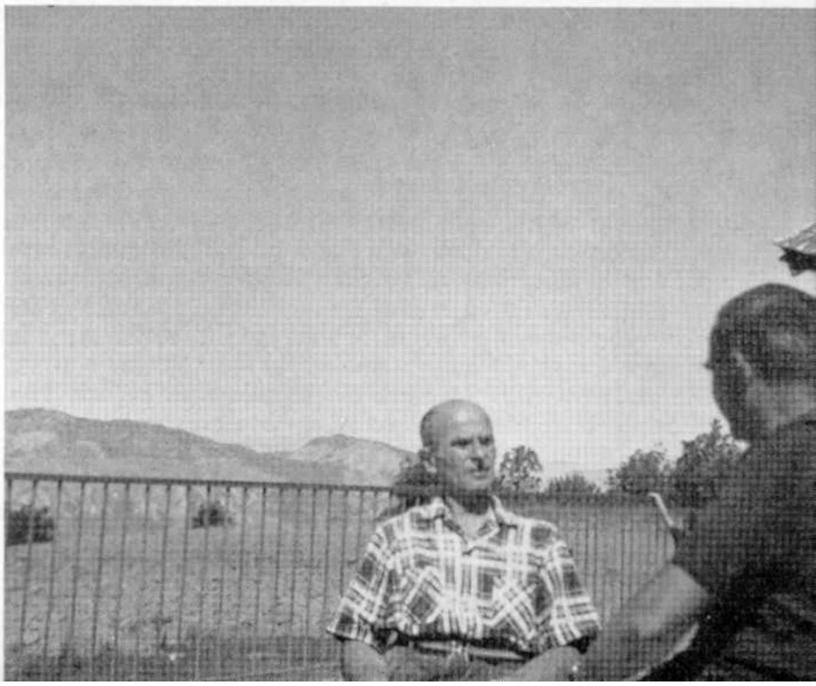
"You see then that I wasn't dreaming, and that I am not mad."

In 1965, in a more general sense, M. Masse had an air of anxiety and misgiving about his adventure. He did, it is true, affirm to us that: "they were good" and that: "they did not wish to do us any harm." But he was not in the least bit easy in his mind as to the possible results of the incident so far as he himself was concerned. Moreover he had been knocked off balance psychologically; the incredible experience clearly could not be fitted in with his simple peasant's way of life.

August 1967 conversation

In 1967 however, we were all struck by his *serenity*, and it is noteworthy that my brother Gustave who is, in his own profession, well used to sounding out people's thoughts and feelings, should have declared that he was far more impressed by this new attitude of M. Masse than by his earlier one. The earlier attitude had been that of a peasant, honest and intelligent, it is true, but in no respect whatever any different from any other honest and intelligent peasant who has been subjected to a psychological test. Now, however, M. Masse is a man in whom there dwells a certainty, a man who no longer displays any curiosity as to what folk who have studied the question at great length, like Charles Bowen or myself, might say to him. Here is a résumé of our conversation with him. By *résumé*, I mean





Top: **From the vineyard, towards the same "little men" and Mlle. Michel, with unoccupied house in background**

Middle: **The Café des Sports**

Lower: **The authors planning the article**

that a desultory conversation is diffuse, repetitious, with lots of expressions like "that's about it" and circumlocutions and so forth, all of which when put into writing can be more condensed without anything at all being lost. I have merely *condensed* what was *diffuse*.

My brother and I had started off by saying we were glad to see him again and by the usual polite remarks, including mention of this year's drought, and the lavender crop, and so on. And then I told him who Charles Bowen was.

Then I said to M. Masse: "I have always had the impression that you did not tell me everything."

"That is true," he replied. "I did not tell all. But I have already said too much. It would have been better if I had kept it all to myself."

"Yes," I said. "But all the same it is very important. Look, there are thousands of people who are seeking to know and to understand. It is necessary to help them. You must go through with it, since you have begun, and not withhold any more of it inside you."

"Yes," he replied. "It's very important, but I can't explain anything. All that I could do would be to say things that would not be understood. You have to have undergone it to understand it."

"How do you know that?" I said. "Just try."

"Monsieur," he replied. "What I have not told you, I have not told anybody, not even my wife, and nobody will make me tell it. Do not insist on it, and let us say no more about it."

As all this had been going on at his Lavender Distillery, he then added: "Come along if you like, I will show this gentleman (Mr. Bowen) the Olivol field."

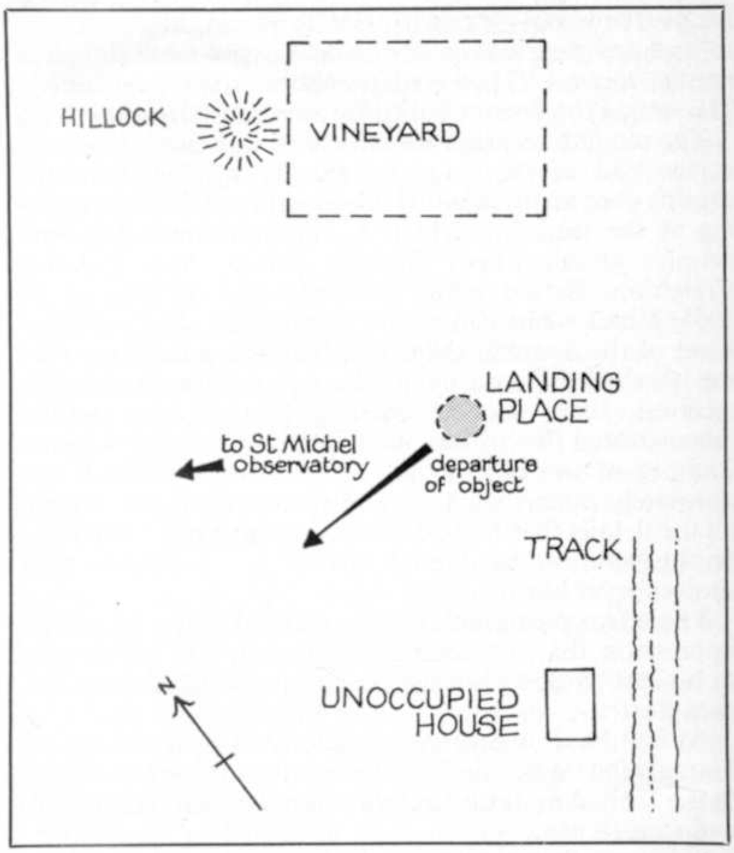
So we got into our car and followed him.

The landing site

C.B. For one who was very busy, M. Masse was indeed generous to spare us so much of his time. He led the way back through the village and up on to the plateau, where we left the main road, and branched off along a dirt road. At about 1 km. from Valensole, we parked the cars beside a small unoccupied house at the edge of the field called l'Olivol.

The immediate impression that one gains is, as always, the vastness of the place. L'Olivol is but a tiny fraction, a tiny corner of the gigantic whole. However, I soon began to discern features that I remembered from past articles and sketches. There, for instance, was the vineyard with the *colline de cayoux*—a large pile of pebbles and other rubbish—just beyond. Frankly I was a little disappointed with the vineyard, for I had always imagined a large plantation with abundant growth through which M. Masse had silently approached his quarry. The plants in the vineyard which I saw, and that includes the few trees, would have afforded a man the size of M. Masse practically no cover. Anyone in that field would have been well aware of his approach.

Which brings me to the next point: the actual site of the landing was more than the length of a cricket pitch (22 yards—a useful standard for measurement) from the nearest point of the vineyard. I would say it is nearer 25 yards away, and if, as M. Masse claims, he got to within 5 metres of the creatures before they stopped him, then he must have covered some 15 to 20 yards in the open.



I can say this with some certainty because the actual landing site is still clear for all to see. It is a circular area of land in the midst of the precise rows of lavender plants, where nothing is growing other than a few sparse weeds. The area is about 3 yards in diameter, and around the perimeter a number of lavender plants are stunted and withered-looking. They are certainly not healthy plants like those in the rest of the field.

There are no longer any signs of the marks left by the object. M. Masse told us that he had re-ploughed the area, and replanted it: all the new plants died. The straggling weeds, so Aimé Michel tells me, are *trifolium melilotus*.

The little unoccupied house, beside which we had parked the cars, is another thing which I cannot remember being mentioned in the previous accounts. Again, the hillock of stones and soil, behind which M. Masse was smoking a cigarette beside his tractor on the fateful morning, is very much closer to the end of the vineyard than I had earlier imagined.

When one looks from the landing site towards the little house, one is facing towards the south-west. According to M. Masse, the machine took off towards the West, that is towards Manosque: in that direction there is just a small wooden hut, otherwise the ground is wide open. If the machine had been travelling very, very fast—instead of disappearing, according to M. Masse—it could still have been seen going on its way, even if only for a split second or so. British readers who do not know France may not be aware that the fields in that country are rarely enclosed by hedgerows like those so familiar to us. Instead, the boundaries are marked by tracks, or low wire fences. Naturally, this adds to the sense of spaciousness. And up on the

Valensole plateau one has unimpeded vision for very great distances.

While I was taking a few photographs for the record, Aimé Michel engaged in another interesting conversation with M. Masse. I had also noticed that he had been more than a little taken aback by the layout and dimensions of the field.

A mistake explained

A.M. On arriving at the spot, and looking at the scene, I had the biggest surprise of the whole day. The vineyard was not at all as I had remembered it (or thought I remembered it). It was at least four times farther away from the landing site than I had shown it to be in the sketch with my article in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for November/December 1965. It took several weeks of mulling over my notes before I found the origin of this incomprehensible mistake. Here it is and, as will be seen, it is not without importance:—

In August 1965, I had first of all paid a visit to Captain Valnet at the Digne Gendarmerie. There, I had read the report on the first investigation, and with it there was a detailed plan of the site together with photographs. Valnet had warned me that Masse, encouraged by Oliva, had admitted having got very near to the machine and to its occupants.

I made a copy of the plan of the site while I was at Digne, and then I went to Valensole where, without Masse being present, I started off by hearing Oliva's account. After which we went to the lavender distillery where, in the presence of Oliva and of my brother Gustave, Masse gave me the story as we have heard it from him. Then M. Masse's father took me to l'Olivol field, whence I returned, in the afternoon, to the distillery to put a few additional questions to M. Masse.

After I had got back to my own home, which is about three hours' travelling from Valensole, I went to bed and was ill for two days. This brief and intense illness (a high fever) puzzled me, but there are no grounds permitting us to attribute any particular significance to it. When, later on, I began to draw up my account of my investigation, I found to my annoyance that I had lost the little sketch-plan of the site which I had made in Captain Valnet's office, but finding, on reading through my notes, that my memory had not deceived me in any respect, I thought that I could make the sketch-plan again from memory. *Now, as it happens, this plan was wrong*. Why? The explanation is as follows:—

M. Masse having told me, most carefully and in the greatest detail, how he had approached the machine and its occupants *across the vineyard*, I unconsciously made the deduction that he would not have been able to approach so close to them in open terrain without their being alerted, and consequently the image of a vineyard reaching to as far as a few metres from the craft had taken root in my mind *without my being aware of it*. Well now, *this implicit reasoning was correct*, as Charles and I were able to establish on the spot. It is in fact totally impossible to emerge from the vineyard and get to as far as a few metres from the landing site without being seen.

But this alters the whole deeper interpretation of the incident. If the two beings remained squatting there without moving throughout the whole of the time that it took for M. Masse to cover about fifteen metres, when they could not have failed to see him coming, *this means that the whole thing was premeditated*. This detail, of capital importance, lends fresh weight to the hypothesis that the depredations perpetrated in the Olivol field during the last few nights of June were in fact designed to arouse the curiosity and the vigilance of M. Masse.[3]

Final conversation with M. Masse

But now let us return to 1967. At the Olivol field, we asked M. Masse to start telling his story once again. This he did, without producing anything new. Hoping to encourage him to go further, I tell him the story of Barney and Betty Hill, which he does not know. He listens to it, visibly uninterested by it, and makes this comment:—

"If those people say that they were forced, it is not true."

"Why?" I asked, somewhat surprised.

"Because they don't force anybody. If those people had said *No*, if they had said '*I don't want to*', '*they*' would have left them in peace."

"Why are you so sure of that?" I asked.

"Because I know."

"How do you know?"

"I have told you that I will say nothing more about what happened to me. I will die without telling anyone. Do not insist. But if I talk like this about those Americans, it is because *I know* that that's how it is."

At this point there occurred an incident which I think will interest all scholars of Ufology. When I asked him if he knew "them" sufficiently well to be able to affirm categorically that "they" never forced anybody, this was his reply:—

"To say that I know them, no. But there are things of which I am sure. For example, *I know when they are about*."

"What do you mean?" I said.

"This: that on several occasions something in me has told me: 'they aren't far off', and then I actually have either seen something in the sky, or I have learnt afterwards from the newspapers that something had happened. For example, during the famous night of July 17-18 last,[4] I was outdoors and was asleep. Suddenly, I was awakened by the impression that 'they' were going to show themselves, and I began to look up at the sky, and twenty minutes later I saw the thing go over. That has happened to me several times."

Very intrigued by these statements, I tried to get more details from him, but with no useful result. M. Masse takes no notes and makes no effort to remember what does not interest him. And our scientific curiosity does not interest him. The concrete details seem futile to him. What seems essential to him is the mental relationship existing between these beings and men. But in him this relationship is *felt*, rather like a religious concept.

As regards the night of July 17-18, this (alleged) premonition would have an altogether special interest should it ultimately be established that it was indeed a *Vostok*. We can engage in various speculations about it, all as fascinating as they are unprovable.

Distant cupolas

C.B. M. Masse took his leave and returned to his work, and the rest of us pottered around taking photographs. Suddenly Aimé called me and pointed to the WNW. In the distance, far beyond the edge of the plateau, there was a range of mountains. These are not very high, being mostly of the order of 4,000-5,000 ft. At one place in the ridge there is a narrow gap, and through this, even without the aid of binoculars, we could see a few white, regularly-spaced spots. These are the famed cupolas of the St. Michel Observatory. It was immediately obvious that one would not have to move very far from the field l'Olivol before one could no longer see the cupolas.

Creature report

I was intrigued by the unoccupied house which can be seen in one of my photographs, and fell to wondering if this was the one connected with an account published by René Fouéré in the GEPA bulletin, *Phénomènes Spatiaux*.[5]

In this article, it was told how one of their members, a M. François Peyregne, had visited Valensole early in 1967. He described the plateau as looking like "an immense platform for interplanetary manoeuvres".

By far the most interesting piece of information discovered by M. Peyregne was that at the end of January 1967 five local people found a little man in an empty room in an old farmhouse that was being repaired. This little creature was reported to be identical with those described by M. Masse, except that he was bearded. The whole party tried to capture the little fellow, and a wild chase ensued. However, it was all in vain, "for something like an invisible force caused him to slip through their hands", and he escaped through the window. Further pursuit across the countryside proved futile.

According to M. Peyregne, the five witnesses desire no publicity whatsoever, and he added that it would not surprise him to learn that other people in the region had had their own incredible experiences, but preferred to lie low.

Nobody mentioned this story either to Aimé Michel or to myself while we were visiting Valensole, and we had little time in which to pursue it further. However, there is yet another Valensole case which we feel should be recorded. We first heard about it while we were waiting for M. Masse to turn up at his distillery.

A.M. As Charles Bowen has told you, when he, Gustave and I arrived at the distillery, M. Masse was not yet there. Five or six men were busy around the machines. We seized the opportunity to talk to them about M. Masse, who, in what they said about him, was described to us once again as a respected man whose good faith is doubted by nobody.

Out of the past

One of the workmen present told us that when he himself was a child he heard an old peasant couple tell how, one night, they had seen a luminous, red, egg-shaped object descend from the sky, settle quietly on the ground, remain there about a quarter of an hour, and then rise up into the sky again and vanish. The two old peasants are long since dead. The thing happened before the First World War (I believe the man said it was—or may have been—1913 . . . C.B.).

The place where it landed was right next to l'Olivol field.

M. Masse having in the meantime arrived at the distillery, we left the workman in order to go to l'Olivol, promising ourselves that we would return and question him later. But, on our return, we were told he had finished his work and nobody could tell us where to find him. I hope to be able to gather more details on this report on another, future trip to Valensole.

NOTES

1 Rifat, A., *Was it a landing at Marliens?* FSR, Vol. 13, No. 5, September/October 1967.

2 Bowen, C., *A Significant Report from France*. FSR, Vol. 11, No. 5, September/October 1965.
Michel, A., *The Valensole Affair*, also G.E.P.A. Investigation, *The Significant Report from France*. FSR, Vol. 11, No. 6, November/December 1965.

3 In 1967 at Valensole, the Spring was cold and dry, and the Summer was excessively dry. Vines, which are pruned each year, were consequently very low and thin. In 1965 they were tall and thick, and could easily hide a man (A.M.).

4 The night on which, so some people say, a *Vostok* satellite disintegrated in the atmosphere over Western Europe, which is indeed possible, but does not perhaps explain all that happened (A.M.).

5 *Phénomènes Spatiaux* No. 11 (March 1967).

ADVERTISEMENT

BUFORA NEWS

BRISTOL CONFERENCE. The British Flying Saucer Bureau (the pioneer U.K. society) has provisionally nominated May 18, 1968, for a one-day conference in Bristol.

The BUFORA Mobile Unit is now fully operational. Is there anyone living fairly close to central London, who has some spare garage space and would be willing to help the Association?

The Surrey Group, SIGAP, is affiliated to BUFORA and publishes its own newsletter. Details from the Hon. Sec.: R. Beet, 195, Epsom Road, Guildford, Surrey.

The Contact Section of BUFORA (under officers) holds private meetings in central London.

For details of the **BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION,** lectures and journal, send a 9 x 4 S.A.E. to: Miss C. Henning (FSR), 99, Mayday Gardens, London, S.E.3.

UFOs in the South Atlantic

By Gordon Creighton

THE following report[1] was given by a young Brazilian airline pilot to Commander Auriphebo Simoes, who is himself a pilot, one of the senior officials of a Brazilian airline, and one of the best known of the UFO investigators in Brazil.

During a very hot night in the summer of 1952, the young pilot, exhausted after a tiring day, walked out from the little town of Itenhaém (on the coast of Brazil, due south of São Paulo) to a wooden summer cottage which he had near the beach. Living at the cottage with him was his grandmother, a Russian emigrant lady named Chaskova.

Finding the cottage oppressive and airless, the pilot opened the door before turning in. The cottage had bunk-type beds, and Senhora Chaskova was already asleep in the lower bunk.

After being asleep for what seems to have been only half an hour or so, the young pilot was suddenly jolted into consciousness by a tremendous explosion, "like a great thunderclap". Jumping down from the bunk, not properly awake, he perceived an intense "fluorescent" bluish-white light shining in through the open door, but concluded that it was merely the dawn coming and that the noise had been a brief thunderstorm in the nearby hills. He went back to sleep.

Next day he was astonished to learn from his Russian grandmother, speaking in her very imperfect Portuguese, that at about 3 a.m. she had heard a great explosion in the sky overhead, and that this was followed by an intensely bright light outside which lasted for some seconds. She soon realised that the extraordinary light could not be lightning, so, her curiosity aroused, she got up and went into the garden to investigate.

By the time she got out there the light had gone. There was now just the dark sky, filled with stars. She turned to glance out to sea (the South Atlantic) and was astonished to perceive a large number of what appeared to be disc-shaped "machines", vividly lit up by an orange glow. The craft resembled "inverted soup-plates" and were stationary at what she estimated to be some 200 metres from the cottage and, as she felt, at a height of only a metre or so above the surface of the sea.

She stood there looking at the objects for half an hour. During this time, she saw two figures, apparently human, emerge on to the top of one of the discs.[2] They remained standing there for a while, apparently looking up at the sky and out over the sea, as though waiting for something. They then descended into the interior of the machine, and shortly after this all the machines took off, one after the other, vanishing into the sky at a tremendous speed "like luminous projectiles".

When young Chaskov had heard this extraordinary description of the night's events, his curiosity was such that he deluged his grandmother with questions, to the point that after a while she became irritated over the whole affair and disliked talking of it. It was too much for her, her Portuguese was poor, and the grandson knew no Russian.

Some time went by, but he continued to raise the matter at intervals, until one day the Adamski story appeared in a translation in the Brazilian magazine *O Cruzeiro*. He took the article to her and showed her the reproductions of Adamski's alleged photos of his "Venusian scout ship". The grandmother agreed that it was very similar to what she had seen, except that the craft hovering over the sea were a good deal flatter on top than Adamski's.[3]

Commander Auriphebo Simoes was impressed by the account, felt that it was unquestionably genuine, wondered whether the great noise heard by the two people in the cottage might not have been the explosion of one of the craft, and whether the other discs might not have been waiting there over the sea for signs of survivors.

It will be pertinent in this connection to mention the many South American rumours and stories of underwater UFO[4] bases along the South Atlantic coast of Brazil and Argentina. Moreover Itanhaém is very near to São Sebastião, where the Brazilian jurist Professor João de Freitas Guimarães of the Faculty of Law at Santos says he encountered a luminous domed craft which came up out of the sea one evening in July 1957, landed on the beach, and contained a number of tall, fair-skinned, long-haired men who took him for a flight with them.[5]

And we have, finally, a case which sounds identical. *La Prensa*, Argentina's leading newspaper, reported on November 16, 1963,[6] that on the previous evening hundreds of persons in the central streets of the great coastal city of Mar del Plata had seen a number of extremely luminous objects out at sea and very close to the surface of the water. A cigar and various discs had been seen over the city the day before.

NOTES

1 From the book *Os Discos Voadores-Fantasia e Realidade*, by Commandante Auriphebo Berrance Simoes, published by Livraria Edart, São Paulo, 1957 (pp. 375-376).

2 Compare the famous Papuan case of June 26, 1959 (FSR November/December 1959, p. 7).

3 Father Gill's "Papuan" saucer was also flat on top.

4 Gordon Creighton, *Argentina 1962* (FSR July/August 1964, p. 13).

5 SBEDV Bulletin No. 4, July 1967; FSR November/December 1957, p. 2; FSR September/October 1961, pp. 18-20; FSR *The Humanoids*, p. 36, case 19.

6 Gordon Creighton, *Argentina 1963-64, Part II* (FSR January/February 1966, p. 25).

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEILLANCE FOR UFOs

Is it Feasible?

by W. T. Powers

Our contributor is an electronics expert at Dearborn Observatory. His observations are particularly interesting in view of Dr. Olavo Fontes' research suggestions in our November/December issue of 1967.

THE question whether any UFOs are objects that might be of unusual or unknown origin could be answered by one or two clear photographs taken with long-focal-length lenses, under known conditions and by observers of established reputation. Unfortunately, the probabilities of such an occurrence are vanishingly small without a thorough analysis of patterns of past sightings, which would permit placement of cameras where the chances of a successful photograph would be maximised.

Even with the aid of computer predictions, a sustained effort, involving many trips to potential sites of unusual occurrences, would be required to establish a fair statistical basis for drawing any negative conclusions (only one trip, of course, is needed if the outcome is positive!). It might be difficult to get support for such an effort, since it would be relatively expensive, and could easily go on for several years before a scientist would feel that he had enough information on which to base any conclusions.

Another approach involving photography could possibly, therefore, be of more value in the short term. One of the fundamental questions that arises when an apparently reliable witness makes an unusual report is whether, somehow, this person could have been fooled, deluded, or persuaded for his own reasons to lie. No matter how good a person's reputation, he may on occasion act contrary to his usual image, and no matter how well-trained he may be, he could be fooled by some very convincing illusion. A great deal of doubt might be removed (or reinforced) if a photographic record could be obtained either showing that an object was in fact present in the vicinity of the witness, or that the sky was empty at the time.

Not all sightings would benefit from this kind of evidence, but many of the more puzzling ones certainly would. Therefore it is of interest to consider the use of cameras designed to cover the entire visible sky.

Because the whole sky must be recorded on film, one cannot at the same time obtain fine detail; a wide-angle lens cannot provide a close-up view. However, even if the photographic record showed large airborne objects only as unresolved dots, the evidence would exist showing that *some* object was in the sky in a particular direction from the camera at a particular time, and with moderate time-sampling, limits could be set to the velocity of that object.

Most scientifically-oriented UFO researchers have long ago ceased to be interested in reports of small shining objects in the sky, either by day or by night, unless some unusually convincing evidence exists (for instance, radar information) showing that the object had some unusual characteristics or abilities. The rationale is not that these objects must all be conventional, but that even if they were actually flying saucers, we could not be sure that they were, and in any event we could obtain very little useful information from them. The only sightings that can shed light on the possible origin of the more unusual UFOs are those involving close-range, and therefore rather low-level, appearances.

This implies that all-sky coverage will be of little usefulness if it is designed to detect objects only at very high altitudes. The meteor camera networks, for example, are so arranged that the fields of view overlap at an altitude of tens of miles, where meteors are most likely to be observed. Even though such a network may cover a substantial fraction of the sky over thousands of square miles *at the design altitude*, the sampling at altitudes of one or two miles is very close to zero.

A single all-sky camera can be designed to photograph 180° of sky—all of the sky from horizon to horizon. If the camera is near ground level, it might be expected to be useful within, say, 10° of the horizon, haze and atmospheric absorption normally interfering seriously at lower elevations. If the coverage is to be useful from, say, 5,000 ft. altitude upward, this means that the radius of coverage is 5·7 miles, and the area covered by a single camera is about 100 square miles.

Such a camera could, of course, photograph objects at greater distances, but they would have to be at altitudes greater than one mile in order to be seen, and we must concentrate on *low-level* objects to get useful results. Also, considering that the entire sky must be recorded on the film of the all-sky camera, it is doubtful that the image of anything of even moderate size (say, 30 ft. in diameter) at a distance of 5·7 miles would be distinguishable from accidental film defects; the angular diameter would be about one milliradian, or about 1/160,000 of the field of view—and hence, 1/160,000 of the usable film diameter. In the day-time this would mean that a dark object would not be resolved and even not recorded at all; at night a bright object or an object carrying lights *would* probably be recorded, but only as a bright dot of indeterminate size.

The all-sky cameras, therefore, should be located *no more* than six miles apart, and preferably less. For

(*continued on page 17*)

THE SPECTRE OF WINTERFOLD

by Charles Bowen

ON the night of November 12/13, 1967, two young people of Woking, Surrey, had the fright of their lives. I first heard a whisper of the incident on the morning of Sunday, November 26, through a friend—who in turn knows the mother of the young man involved in the affair.

"It is a very strange story," said my friend, "but as it is not connected with UFOs I didn't hasten to tell you."

Which is a pity, because it so happened that when I heard the gist of the account I became very interested, with my thoughts ranging from Saltwood[1] to Flatwoods[2] and Casa Blanca.[3] I arranged immediately to interview the witnesses, and first met them on the afternoon of November 26. I am grateful to them for their cooperation.

The witnesses

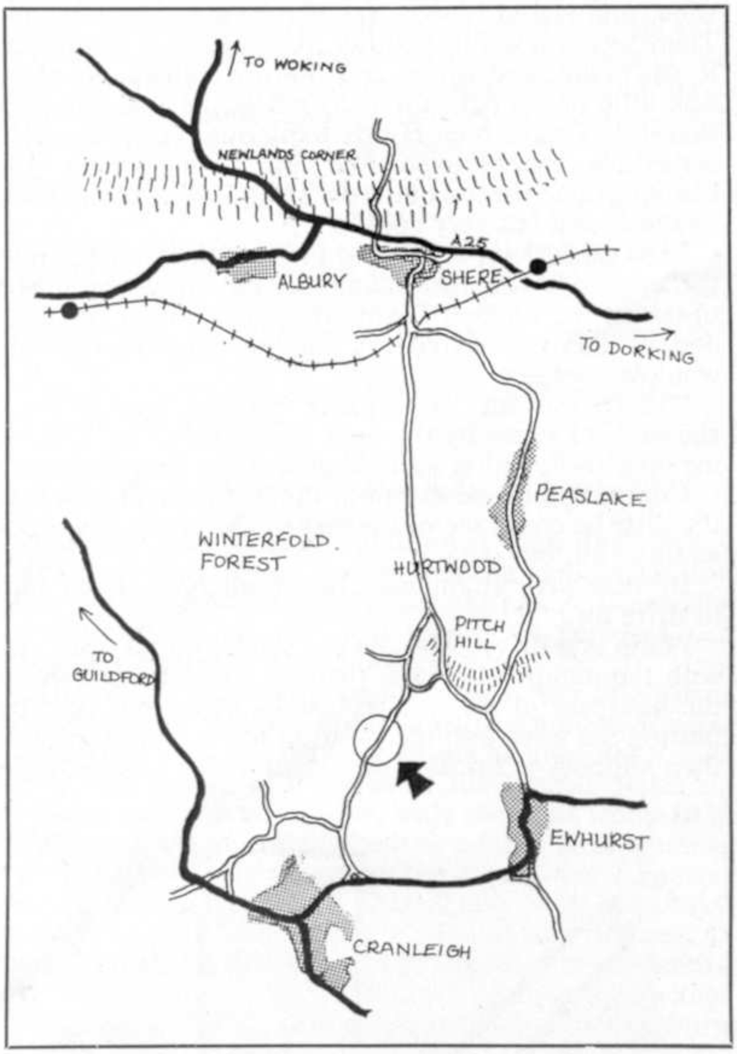
At about 12.30 a.m. on November 13, on a damp, cloudy night—there had earlier been some drizzle following a very pleasant autumn Sunday—Philip Freeman and his friend Angela Carter left the house of Philip's married brother Leslie Freeman, who lives in Cranleigh. They were not sure of the precise time, but just before leaving they had been watching the Eamonn Andrews show on ATV (London). Philip was driving his red Triumph *Vitesse* convertible. The hood was up.

Aged 22, Philip is one of two partners in a small sub-contracting carpentry business. He lives with his parents in a comfortable flat in Loder Close, Sheerwater, Woking. He says he has no knowledge of, or interest in, flying saucer literature: his time for reading is limited, but he has read some Science Fiction (*The War of the Worlds*, the Woking-based novel by H. G. Wells, was quoted as an example). He was surprised when I showed him a copy of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW; surprised to see such a well-turned-out magazine on the subject. Miss Angela Carter, 20, of Devonshire Avenue, Sheerwater, works locally.

The location

The route which the couple took from Cranleigh was up over hilly, forested country, to Shere. The narrow, twisting lanes make their way through rocky cuttings and the woodlands of Hurtwood Common, between Winterfold and Pitch Hill, which is the third highest point in the County of Surrey. From Shere, they were to take the A25 road to Newlands Corner on Albury Down, where they would join the road down to West Clandon and Send, and then on to Woking. This is a much shorter route than that by the main roads through Shamley Green and Guildford to Woking: it is also a wilder, and much more lonely route—to which I personally can testify, for I know the district very well.

There was no other traffic about, and, as the windscreen and windows of the car were misting over—the heater had not at that time warmed up sufficiently to keep them clear—Philip stopped the car at a place which he thinks was about two miles from Cranleigh.



The area in which the encounter took place is arrowed

A nauseating smell

Dousing the headlights, but leaving the side lights on, with the engine running, Philip got out to leather the windscreen. As he did so, he became aware of a very unpleasant odour. When I asked him to describe the smell, he said it was something like food being cooked, and burning badly. Then, as an afterthought, he suggested it could even have been like a "stink bomb".

I questioned Miss Carter separately, and she confirmed the details of their movements. She also said that she became aware of the smell as soon as Philip got out of the car, and that it was not in any way like the smell from an overheated car engine (I had not mentioned that possibility). Philip agreed with this when I spoke to him again, and pointed out that the car had not run long enough for it to overheat.

The night was pitch black, and there were no lights in sight other than the car's side and rear lights.

The apparition

As Philip returned to the driver's seat he looked round to Miss Carter, on his left, and was alarmed to see a "face" through the near-side passenger window. He estimated it to be about 10 inches long and 8 inches wide, and stated that it was close up to the window. There were no visible features like eyes, nose or mouth; it was blank, and white, and sharply defined. As there was little or no light for it to reflect, he suggests now that it may have been faintly luminous. There was also something that looked like an "arm" which was reaching up to the top of the car's hood. He was suddenly terrified, and felt very cold.

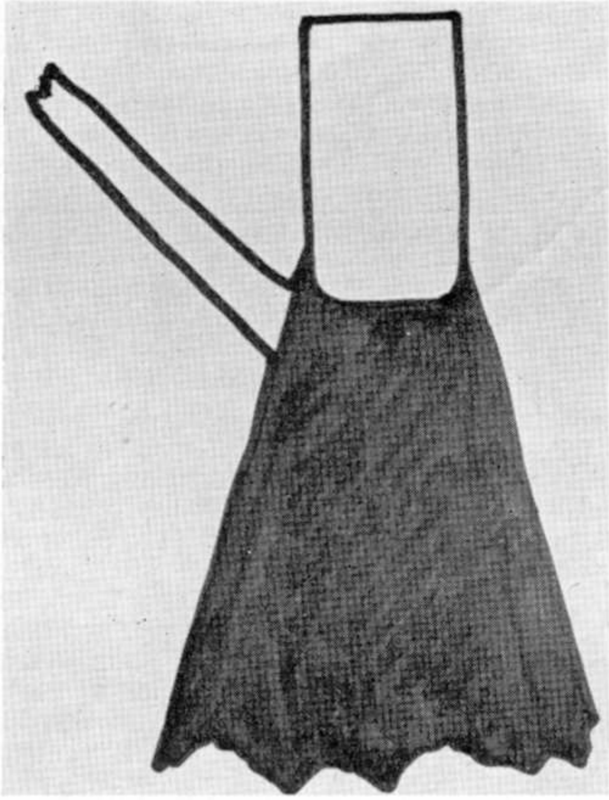
Miss Carter was looking at Philip as he got back into the car, and was mentioning the revolting smell. She observed the look of fright which came over his face, and instinctively dared not look around to the side window.

"There was an 'atmosphere' which alarmed me," she said. "I knew by the look on Philip's face, and by my own 'feeling' that something horrible was out there."

Continuing his description, Philip Freeman said that the little he could see of the rest of the "body" was not white at all, but dark.

By now very frightened, his companion urged him to drive away.

Philip is a driver who always starts in first gear. As, with the majority of cars, there is no synchromesh on the first gear of his car, he usually eases into gear by putting the lever into the position for second gear, and then slipping it up into the position for first gear. In the time—perhaps a second or two—taken to perform this operation, the apparition apparently moved to the back of the vehicle, for Philip glanced around as he switched on the headlights preparatory to moving off, and saw the same white "face" close to the perspex rear window. As he drove away, he caught a glimpse of the rest of the "body" in the light from his rear lamps, and he has a distinct impression of a dark bell shape surmounted by the two white, or luminous, parts. He cannot recall seeing any "legs".



The apparition as sketched by Mr. Freeman

The "creature" appeared to be approximately level in height with the top of the *Vitesse* ($4\frac{1}{2}$ ft.).

The whole experience, from the stopping of the car to the hurried departure, was estimated to have occupied less than two minutes.

As soon as the vehicle moved away from the site of the encounter, the smell—which had been stronger inside the car than it was outside—disappeared.

A few hundred yards up the road, Philip asked Miss Carter if she was agreeable to turning round and going back with their twin headlights full on. She would not hear of it, and urged him to drive home as quickly as possible.

Reactions

Philip's parents were abed when he arrived home. He roused them and blurted out his story. Their reaction was one of surprise, which changed to mild amusement.

"Maybe it was a traffic warden," suggested Mr. Freeman, senior.

However, they quickly saw that their son was adamant, and in no mood for joking, and when I spoke to them they assured me that his agitation was such that he must have seen something real and very alarming. This does not surprise me, for I found both Philip Freeman and Angela Carter to be down-to-earth, matter-of-fact and likeable young people.

It seems furthermore that Philip's friends and employees also found the story to be a "bit of a giggle", but it quickly flitted through the bush telegraph to reach the ears of a reporter who works for the monthly *Woking Review*. Late one evening the route was retraced by Philip and the reporter, but nothing was seen. At the time of writing (November 27), I understand the story is due to appear in the December edition of *Woking Review*.

When I met the witnesses, Philip was understandably fed up with the reaction of other people to his factual account of something he had seen.

Comment

There have been a number of somewhat vague flying saucer reports from the Ewhurst-Hurtwood-Cranleigh district during the past three years or so. My daughter Pauline is endeavouring to trace a former fellow student at Guildford who mentioned seeing two luminous objects rise from a field at the edge of the forest area one evening in 1965. Again, elsewhere in this issue will be found Sqdn/Ldr. Shipwright's account of his sighting (from the Downs close to Newlands Corner) of an unusual object near the village of Albury. This is no great distance from the place where the Winterfold spectre was seen.

Nor should we forget that the Ewhurst-Hurtwood Common district has been the scene of many sightings of the mystery "Puma", reports of which so interested Waveney Girvan and myself during 1963 and 1964. Accounts of the "Puma" have often contained references to the strong ammoniacal smell present at a sighting.[4] In fact my main reason for bringing this latest Winterfold account to the attention of REVIEW readers is the report of the strong smell. Philip Freeman mentioned "stink bombs": could the odour have been akin to the "bad egg" smell of hydrogen sulphide (H_2S)? Just such an odour was reported at the site of the Flatwoods landing and monster case of September 12, 1952, where marks on the ground were later found by investigators.

Again, our contributor Jerome Clark reminded us of the incident—mentioned by Donald Keyhoe—of the aircraft which, with a dead and mutilated crew, was miraculously brought back to base by the dying second pilot. The smell of hydrogen sulphide was found to be strong inside the cabin when the aircraft was examined after landing.[5]

An obnoxious smell was also mentioned by the claimant in the Ohio contact case reported by John A. Keel elsewhere in this issue.

When I discussed this new Winterfold case with Gordon Creighton, he reminded me that in mediaeval times, tales which told of manifestations of the devil often told also of the smell of brimstone. Had such a thing as the spectre—as seen by Philip Freeman and Angela Carter—been reported 600 years ago, I feel sure it would have been interpreted as a manifestation of the devil: certainly the Flatwoods monster would have fallen into the same category, and, as we know, a UFO was also reported on that occasion.

NOTES

1 *The Saltwood Monster*, FLYING SAUCER REVIEW March/April 1964.
2 For FSR record of this case see Lorenzen, Mrs. C., *UFO Occupants in United States Reports*, THE HUMANOIDS, special issue for October/November 1966 (reprinted July 1967).
3 Creighton, G., *The Extraordinary Happenings at Casa Blanca*, FSR September/October 1967.
4 Bowen, C., *Mystery Animals*, FSR November/December 1964.
Clark, J., *Why UFOs are Hostile*, FSR November/December 1967.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEILLANCE

(*continued from page 14*)

practical reasons, however, we must be content with less than perfect coverage, and rely on statistics to assure that *occasionally* there will be a film record relevant to some particular report.

If we assume a square grid with cameras at the intersections of five-mile lines, this means that to cover the state of Illinois (for example), a grid of around 300 × 200 miles would have to be set up, requiring 60 × 40, or 2,400 cameras. If each camera could be purchased, equipped with a convex mirror for all-sky coverage, and installed at a cost of $100 each, the network would cost $240,000 just to install. If we assume that one person could load, collect the film, process the film and examine the film (on a full-time basis) from 25 cameras, then about 100 people would be required to man the network; at a cost of $6,000 per year per person, this would come to $600,000 per year for basic personnel (plus a small additional sum for central administration). Film and processing equipment for the cameras, whether purchased and handled centrally or not, would not cost less than $500 per year per camera, or another $1,200,000 per year.

The yearly operating cost for this network, then, would seem to be of the order of 1·6 to 2 million dollars. I emphasise that this network covers an area 300 × 200 miles; this is 1% of the area of the United States. If cameras were placed to cover only the most likely 10% of the country, as ascertained by computer processing of available information, then the yearly operating cost would be something like $20,000,000, with the initial acquisition and installation of equipment running to perhaps 10% of that figure. Considerably more careful system design should, of course, precede any actual proposals for such a network, but these numbers give a rough picture of what is involved.

PERSONAL COLUMN

UFO DETECTOR Geos 5, new model. Many successes in England, France, and other countries. New low price, including air mailing, without battery: £2 10s. (or $7.00). U.K. Orders: Lionel Beer, Flat 15, Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London, W.1. From other countries: GEOS., 19, rue du village, 1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland.

HANDBOOK OF LEYS AND ORTHOTENY gives details on the connection of UFOs with ancient sites. 2/- from J. Goddard, 43 Walton Bridge Road, Shepperton, Middlesex.

4/- EACH PAID for pre-1959 F.S.Rs. 2/6 each paid for any second hand copy of F.S.R. Second hand saucer books also wanted. L. Beer, 15, Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London, W.1.

COLOUR ENPRINTS of illustrations showing the types of UFOs and occupants seen. 4/- each. 50 different: Walt Blythe, 22 Cherry Grove, Mansfield, Notts., England.

WANTED. FSR, Vol. 13, Nos. 1 and 2. Please write Hon. Mrs. Seymour Barnes, Manor Cottage, Charlton Hawthorne, Sherborne, Dorset.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. Interested persons are invited to participate in a study of psychic impressions about UFO phenomena. Along with a vocational interest inventory and a self-descriptive check-list, participants are asked to describe their own impressions of UFO phenomena as indicated in dreams, visions, prayer, meditation, or other psychic processes. Please write to Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming 82070.

WANTED: Copies of F.S.R. from V. 1, No. 1 through V. 13, No. 4. Mint condition only. Prefer complete set. Top price. E. A. Vinson, P.O. Box 543, Groves, Texas, 77619, USA.

WANTED: Flying Saucer Review, Vols. I, II, III (1955/56/57 complete) and Vol. IV, Nos. 1 and 3. High prices paid for complete volumes. Write: W. Wooninck, Velperweg 44B, Arnhem—Netherlands.

EVEN MORE AMAZING . . .

Part VI — The Medical Report

Translated and presented by Gordon Creighton

With this instalment we conclude our presentation of the story of the Brazilian farmer Antônio Villas Boas.

IN view of its very great significance, I feel it wiser, however, to start out by reproducing once more here the letter which Dr. Olavo Fontes wrote to me on April 25, 1966, about this case. This letter has already appeared on page 24 of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for July/August 1966, and most readers will therefore have seen it. However, in view of the great length of time that has been needed to reproduce the whole of the amazing story of Antônio Villas Boas, I think it well worth while to give it again now for the benefit of new readers, and in order to refresh everyone's memory. This letter is, I submit, of crucial and vital importance. Dr. Fontes would never have written it to me had he not felt very sure in his own mind that the A.V.B. story is no fake.

Dr. Olavo Fontes' Letter

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
April 25, 1966.

Dear Mr. Creighton,

In a recent trip to the U.S.A. I had the opportunity to see a number of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, with your article *The Most Amazing Case of All—Part 1.*

I was very interested, because I am one of the three* persons in Brazil possessing the complete report on that incident. In fact I made a personal investigation of the whole affair, together with the newspaperman João Martins, who was the man first contacted by the witness Antônio Villas Boas.

Antônio Villas Boas wrote two letters to João Martins shortly after the incident had occurred, and we finally decided to send him the money for the trip to Rio de Janeiro.

He arrived here about four months after the happenings, with everything still fresh in his memory. He was subjected to an exhaustive cross-examination and interrogation and also to a medical examination including psychological tests.

We decided not to publish the results of our investigation because the case was too "wild", and also because of the possibility of another similar case occurring which could be compared with this one—a comparison that would have been most interesting if the first case were not generally known.

But no second case appeared and now, eight years later, you have finally published the results of the investigation made by the Sociedade Brasileira de Estudos Sôbre Discos Voadores.

Unfortunately their report is not complete—not because of any failure in their investigation, but due simply to the fact that their interview with Villas Boas took place nearly four years after the incident. Obviously his recollection of the events wasn't as good as it was when we first interviewed him. There was a loss of detail, and he didn't remember many things that could be important for the evaluation of his experience.

To correct this situation, I enclose herewith the complete report about his amazing experience. I would like to see it published in the Review, together with any comments or conclusions you would like to make on the whole case.

Concerning his medical history, the symptoms described suggest radiation-poisoning or exposure to radiation, but unfortunately he came to me too late for the blood examinations that could have confirmed such a possibility beyond any doubt. I was then without the additional evidence necessary for making such a diagnosis, and decided not to talk about it.

Sincerely yours,
Olavo T. Fontes, M.D.

* Who doubts that the third person, in addition to Dr. Olavo Fontes and Senhor Joao Martins, was a representative of Brazilian Intelligence? Moreover Dr. Fontes says "three persons *in Brazil* . . . . which leaves the way open for us to assume that a full report went straightaway to Washington!—G.C.

* * *

Clinical remarks and medical examination by Dr. Olavo Fontes

Subject: Antônio Villas Boas, aged 23, white, single, farmer, residing in São Francisco de Sales in the State of Minas Gerais.

History of the illness

As is recorded in his Deposition, he left the machine at 5.30 a.m. on October 16, 1957. He was feeling quite weak, having eaten nothing since 9 o'clock the previous evening and having vomited a good deal while in the machine. He arrived home exhausted and slept almost the whole day through. He awoke at 4.30 p.m., feeling well, and ate a normal dinner. But already that night, as well as the following night, he was unable to sleep. He was nervous and very excited; he managed several times to get off to sleep, but at once began to dream of the happenings of the night before, just as if it were occurring all over again. Then he would wake up with a start, shouting, and feeling himself seized once more by his strange captors.

After experiencing this several times, he gave up trying to sleep, and attempted to pass the night in studying. But he could not do that either, for he was completely unable to concentrate on what he was reading; his thoughts were always reverting to the events of the previous night. The dawn found him disturbed, walking up and down and smoking one cigarette after another. He was tired and his body hurt all over. Then

he drank a cup of coffee, without eating, as was his wont. Straightaway however he felt nauseated. This nausea lasted throughout the whole day. A very severe headache also set in, in his temples, which pounded, and this also remained with him all day. He noticed that he had entirely lost his appetite, and for about two days he was quite unable to eat anything.

He spent the second night also without being able to sleep, in the same state as the night before. During this second night, he began to feel a troublesome burning sensation in his eyes, but the headache had gone, and did not return.

During the second day he remained nauseated and totally without appetite. He did not vomit however at any time, perhaps because he had not forced himself to eat. The burning sensation in the eyes increased and now began to be accompanied by continual watering. However he noticed no congestion of the conjunctivae, nor any other sign of irritation of the eyes. He noticed no diminution in his vision.

On the third night, sleep returned, and he slept normally. But from now onwards, for approximately one month, he was overcome by an excessive sleepiness. Even during the day, he kept nodding off and falling asleep at any moment, even when talking to other people, and wherever he might be. It sufficed only for him to remain still for a little while, and he would drop off to sleep. During all this period of somnolescence, the burning in his eyes also continued, as well as the excessive watering. The nausea however disappeared on the third day, when too his appetite returned and he began to eat normally. He noted that the visual symptoms were aggravated in the sunlight, so that he was obliged to avoid much light.

On the eighth day, while working, he got a small bruise on his forearm, with a little local bleeding. Next day, he noticed that the lesion had turned into a small infected wound, with a little head of pus and very itchy. When this wound healed, there remained a purplish patch around it. Between four and ten days later, he had similar wounds appear on his forearms and legs. These however came spontaneously, without any prior traumatism, all of them starting with a small lump with a hole in the middle, very itchy, and each of them lasting from ten to twenty days. He mentions that they all remained "purple all round when they dried up", the scars being still visible now.

At no time did he notice any cutaneous eruption or any burning sensation, and he likewise denies having seen any haemorrhagic spots on his skin (petechiae) or bruises on any lesser wounds (haemorrhagic patches); if there were any such, they had passed unnoticed by him. He mentions however that on the fifteenth day two yellowish patches appeared on his face, one on each side of the nose, and more or less symmetrical. They were "sort of semi-pallid spots, as though there was little blood there", which disappeared spontaneously after some ten to twenty days.

At the present time he still has two small unhealed wounds on his arms, besides the scars of the various other wounds that kept on appearing sporadically during the last few months. None of the other symptoms described have reappeared up to the present time. He feels well at present and considers himself to be in good health.

He denies having had fever, diarrhoea, haemorrhagic symptoms, or jaundice, either during the acute phase of his illness or subsequently. On the other hand, he noticed no area of depilation on his body or face, nor did he observe any excessive loss of hair, at any time, between October and now. During the period of sleepiness he displayed no apparent diminution in his capacity for physical labour. He likewise observed no diminution in his libido or potency, or any change in the sharpness of his eyesight. He noticed no anaemia, and he had no ulcerated lesions in the mouth.

Previous illnesses

He mentions only eruptive illnesses proper to childhood (measles, chickenpox), with no complications. No chronic venereal disease. Has suffered for some years past from "chronic colitis", which is giving him no trouble at the moment.

Physical examination

The subject is of male sex, white, smooth black hair, dark eyes, apparently suffering from no acute or chronic illness. Biotype: long-limbed aesthenic. Facies: atypical. Is of medium height (1 metre 64 cms. in shoes), lean but strong, with well developed musculature. Is well nourished, presenting no signs of vitamin deficiency. No physical deformities or anomalies in physical development. Body hair of normal appearance and distribution for his sex. Conjunctival mucosae *slightly discoloured*. Teeth in good state of preservation. Superficial ganglia impalpable.

Dermatological examination

The following changes are to be noted:

(1) Two small hyperchromic patches, one on each side of the chin (see photographs), of small size and more or less round in shape, one of them is of the diameter of a Brazilian 10-centavo piece and the other one a little larger and more irregular in appearance; the skin on these regions looks smoother and thinner, as though it had been renewed recently, or as if it were somewhat atrophied. There is no element permitting one to make any evaluation as to the nature and the age of these two marks: it can only be said that they are scars of some superficial lesion with associated subcutaneous haemorrhage, which have been in existence at least a month and at the most twelve months. These marks are seemingly not permanent and will probably disappear after a few months. No other similar patch or mark was noted.

(2) Several scars from recent (a few months at the most) cutaneous lesions on the backs of the hands, on the forearms, and on the legs. All present the same appearance, which recalls that of small cicatrized boils or wounds, with areas of desquamation around them, showing that they are relatively recent. There are still two which have not yet healed, one on each arm, and their appearance is that of small reddish nodules or lumps, harder than the surrounding skin and standing out from it, painful when pressed, and having a small central orifice discharging a yellowish serous fluid. The skin around these wounds is changed and irritated,

indicating that the lesions are prurient, since there are marks made by the patient's fingernails when scratching them. The most interesting aspect of all these cutaneous lesions and scars is the presence of a violet-coloured hyperchromic area around all of them—a feature with which we are totally unacquainted. We do not know whether or not these areas may possess any special significance. Our experience in Dermatology is insufficient for us to be able to interpret them correctly, since that is not our speciality. We consequently confine ourselves to a description of the changes, which have also been photographed.

Examination of the nervous system

Good orientation in time and space. Feelings and affections within the normal limits. Spontaneous and stimulated attention both normal. Tests of perception, thought-association, and reasoning powers indicate apparently normal mental mechanisms. Long-term and short-term memory in good shape. Excellent visual memory, with facility for reproducing in drawings or sketches the details he has described verbally. Absence of any sign or any indirect evidence of perturbation of the mental faculties.

NOTE: These results, while accurate, need to be completed—if possible—by a more specialised psychiatric examination, performed by a specialist. Examination of motility, reflexes, and surface sensitivity: revealed nothing abnormal. Examination of other organs and systems: revealed nothing abnormal.

Signed: OLAVO FONTES, M.D.,
Rio de Janeiro, February 22, 1958.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Parts I, II, III of *Even More Amazing* ... in which AVB's deposition was presented, telling of his temporary abduction, by force, by flying saucer entities, of his strange medical examination, and "treatment", and of his amorous dalliance, were published in FSR, Vol. 12, Nos. 4, 5 and 6 (July/August, September/October, and November/December 1966). Vol. 12, No. 6, also contained our list of startling likenesses between the creatures allegedly encountered by AVB, and those who were reported to have abducted Barney and Betty Hill in 1961.

Part IV, the final part of the deposition, was published in FSR, Vol. 13, No. 1 (unfortunately now out of print). Part V, the comments by Dr. Olavo Fontes, and by Gordon Creighton, were published in FSR, Vol. 13, No. 3 (May/June 1967).

CORRECTION

On page 24 of FSR for May/June 1967, in his comments on Part V of the A.V.B. story, Gordon Creighton wrote: "Finally, if the doctor and the journalist consider A.V.B. to have been lying in 1958, do they think so still, and, if so, why has Dr. Olavo Fontes now sent this complete photostatic copy of his remarkable document to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW?"

In the interests of absolute accuracy, it is important that we correct an error of fact here, due to a slip made by Gordon Creighton in preparing the text.

Mr. Creighton's full translation was made from a photostatic copy, but as we have already explained, that photostat had *not* come to us from Dr. Fontes. What Dr. Fontes sent to Mr. Creighton was Mrs. Irene Granchi's English translation of the document. (Although not quite so close to the Portuguese original as Mr. Creighton's version, Miss Granchi's rendering reveals no discrepancies whatever, and was not used by us for the simple reason that when it arrived Mr. Creighton's own translation was almost complete.)

The argument adduced by Mr. Creighton in his comments to Part V is of course in no way affected by this correction.—EDITOR.

AIMÉ MICHEL WRITES ABOUT THE COLORADO PROJECT

In a masterly postscript to the fourth French edition of his *Flying Saucers And The Straight Line Mystery*,* Monsieur Aimé Michel emphasises the great changes that were bound to come as a result of the courageous appearance of Dr. Hynek before the Senatorial Committee in 1966, and the valiant services of Dr. Jacques Vallée. Indeed M. Michel had already predicted (in his third edition, October 1966) that such would be the case.

While acknowledging the high attainments of the Chairman of the Condon Committee, M. Michel nonetheless voices concern at the seeming absence of Condon investigators when it comes to on-the-spot field work, and he makes a sharp attack on one member by name—Mr. Robert Low—who, so he says, gave French delegates at the Prague Astronomical Congress last August the impression that he had never read *Flying Saucer Review*, had never heard of the AVB or Valensole cases, and thought Socorro was unique.

Describing the ten months spent by Dr. James E. McDonald of the University of Arizona in travelling around the USA, interrogating old witnesses, and building up his massive dossier to prove that the U.S. Air Force, on C.I.A. instructions, has been deliberately lying and cooking the books, M. Michel finds it particularly piquant that, in France, the most vociferous allies of the reactionary C.I.A., the loudest "debunkers" of the UFOs, should have been . . . certain extremely left-wing French astronomers!

Commenting upon the enormous change in the situation as regards UFO research in the USSR, M. Michel sees some grounds for thinking that the Russians might now be psychologically ready to take the lead in a *truly honest scientific enquiry* (nipped in the bud in America in 1953 when the C.I.A. put the finger on the Robertson Committee).

On one small point of fact however we find our respected French doyen and mentor to be misinformed. He thinks the North Dakota radar sighting of August 25, 1966 (related by Vallée in the *Tekhnika Molodezhi* article), was hitherto quite unknown to the American public, so that we now see an interesting situation in which, for the first time, the Americans learn from a Soviet journal about a sighting above an American rocket silo! Such however is not quite the case, for the Dakota sighting was given by Dr. Hynek in his article in the *Saturday Evening Post* of December 17, 1966.

GORDON CREIGHTON.

* **Mystérieux Objets Célestes,** 4th edition, Editions Planète, 114 Champs Elysées, Paris 8e, France.

THE HEFLIN PHOTOGRAPHS

by Ralph Rankow

Our contributor, a New York professional photographer with a business on Broadway, was formerly photographic consultant to NICAP of Washington D.C. Rex Heflin, whose four photographs of an alleged UFO are the subject of this article, reported that he had given the photographs to an official of the North American Defence Agency. In *The Silencers at Work,* **an article in our March/April 1967 issue, we mention this incident and carried a copy of Heflin's first photograph as our cover illustration. Mr. Charles Gibbs-Smith, the aviation historian, was not happy about the photograph (although we had made no claims concerning its authenticity), and posed a series of questions in a letter which was published in our July/August 1967 issue. Mr. Rankow's article first appeared in** *Fate* **magazine under the title:** *The Disc with the Domed Top.*

REX HEFLIN never believed those flying saucer stories. Perhaps his four years of active police duty and F.B.I. training conditioned him to a "seeing is believing" attitude. Certainly flying saucers were not on his mind at 11.30 a.m., August 3, 1965, as he sat in his truck trying to get the two-way radio to work.

Heflin works for the Orange County Highways Department in California as a highway inspector. He was attempting to make radio contact with Road Maintenance Superintendent Ashcraft to report some tree limbs which were obstructing a railway crossing sign. But the radio suddenly had gone completely dead.

Then Heflin caught a glimpse of an aerial object from the corner of his eye; however, he says he thought it was a conventional aircraft, possibly from the nearby Marine air base. The object was moving slowly from his left toward the road in front of him. Only when the flying object stopped momentarily and hovered did Heflin look more closely. Then he saw a disc with a domed top! The sunlight which was filtering through some haze reflected from its surface. No sound reached him from the strange-looking vehicle.

Heflin grabbed his Model 101 Polaroid camera from the seat of the truck and photographed the disc through the windshield. The slowly moving object continued in an arc, over the road and off to Heflin's right. Not moving from the driver's seat Heflin now snapped the second photo, through the truck's right front window.

At this point Heflin noticed a rotating beam of light coming from the centre of the object's underside. On a very light copy print this beam of light is faintly discernible. He then snapped the third photograph, through the same side window.

Heflin reported that the object maintained a relatively level altitude of about 150 feet in relation to the flat terrain; however, he noted that its motion resembled that of a gyroscope losing its stability. This same "wobbling effect" often has been reported in UFO sightings. As the object increased its speed and altitude it also seemed to gain stability. A smoke-like ring of vapour remained in the air after the object was gone. Heflin drove quickly to where the smoke ring still hung in the sky and, jumping out of his truck, photographed it. He described the smoke as blue-black.

After the strange air vehicle left the area Heflin found his two-way radio working perfectly and he had no trouble contacting his Santa Ana base radio station.

NICAP, The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, is a private, non-profit organisation which checks UFO reports. As soon as this story broke on the wire services NICAP sent two investigators, Ed Evers, of Anaheim, Calif., and John Grey, of Huntingdon Beach, Calif., to see Rex Heflin. These men both are engineers working on the Apollo moon probe at North American Aviation Company.

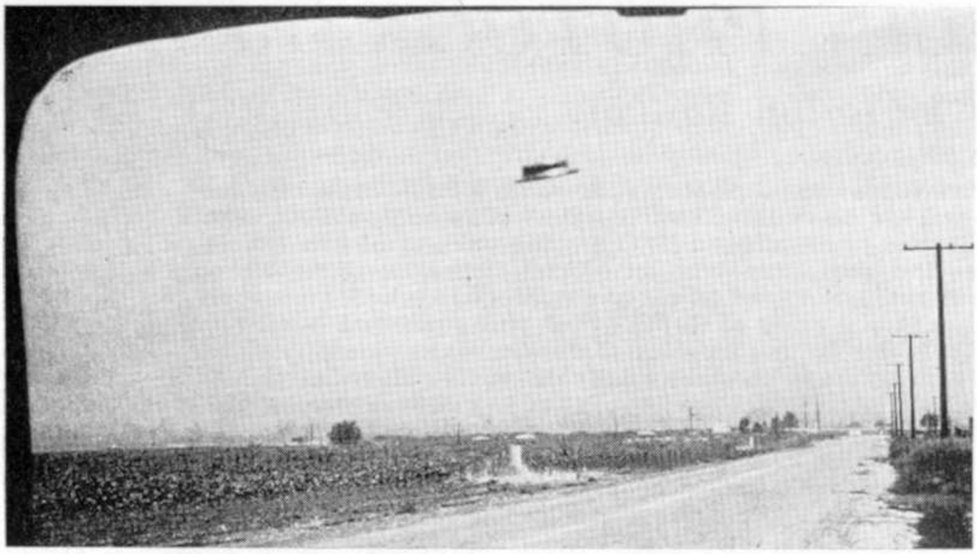
After talking with Rex Heflin and getting his signature on a four-page statement Evers and Grey started to check out some points in the story. What about that radio interference? Was the radio faulty?

The NICAP investigators got in touch with the superintendent of traffic control in Santa Ana, a Mr. Kimmel. Kimmel explained that since radio messages come through his office, he himself had heard the transmission difficulties. He said that later he told Heflin to take the truck over to the shop and have the radio checked. This was done and they found nothing wrong with it. Kimmel further said, "It has been perfectly O.K. ever since."

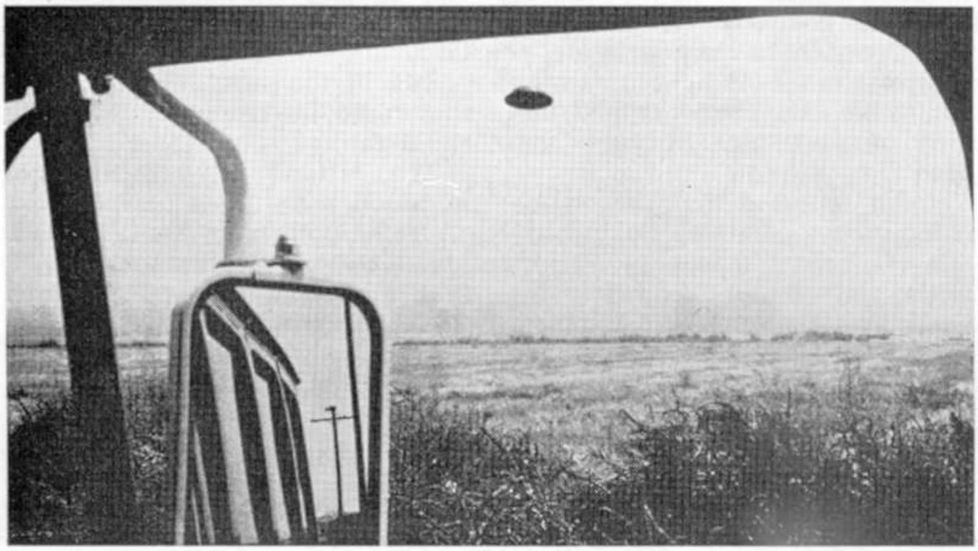
Probably the pieces of evidence most important to the sighting are the photographs. Some of the questions Evers and Grey wanted answered about these were: Did Heflin rush to the local newspaper with his pictures? Was he anxious to tell his story and possibly make a few dollars and/or get some notoriety?

They found there had been a lapse of about a month between the time Heflin saw the object and the day the story and photos first appeared in *The Santa Ana Register*. Heflin told Ed Evers he had thought the strange craft was some kind of experimental plane sent up from the Marine base nearby and for this reason didn't show the pictures around.

A few days later Mr. C. H.



Photograph 1. Taken through windscreen. Heflin claims UFO was crossing highway from the left



Photograph 2. Taken through right side-window. There was stated to be a beam of light under the disc. This is discernible on an under-developed print of this picture

Hoiles, co-publisher of *The Register,* came into the drugstore which is owned by a friend of his and saw copies of the Polaroid prints. Hoiles asked for copies for his newspaper.

In a signed statement the chief photographer of *The Register,* Clay Miller says, "After many telephone calls and several days we ran down Heflin and encouraged him to bring the original photos into the office. When Heflin brought the photos to *The Register* office they caused much interest. Everyone crowded around to look at them. To me the photos looked clear, with all parts of the picture in focus—from the window and mirror to the UFO and then farther on down the road to the cars."

Photographer Miller explained that the pictures were small and in order to show up well in the newspaper they had to be enlarged. The enlargements show some grain and are less sharp than the originals.

Miller concluded his statement by saying, "Under much questioning Heflin gave the same answers and said he really did see the UFO and did take a picture of it. He did not seem to want to dodge any issue that was brought up and had a complete answer for each question. In my opinion he appeared to be a sincere, honest person. As far as I could tell the photos were authentic and had not been altered in any way whatsoever."

Ed Evens asked Heflin if NICAP might borrow the original Polaroid prints in order to conduct a closer study of the details.

Heflin replied: "If I had the prints NICAP would be welcome to borrow them. Unfortunately NORAD (North American Air Defence) has them and I'm not sure when they will be returned. I have no idea who the person was that borrowed them so I will have to trust to his honesty to return them. He did state that he was from the North American Defence Command G-2 and he displayed a folder containing various coloured credentials."

Heflin did not ask for a signed receipt for his pictures. Previously he had loaned them to the El Toro Marine Station and had received them back in good condition. He saw no reason why NORAD would not act in a like manner. Now NORAD denies any knowledge of their whereabouts and the original photographs have disappeared.

Rep. James B. Utt wrote to NORAD requesting information about Heflin's missing prints. In his letter of reply NORAD's Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. M. M. Magee, wrote, "For your information NORAD does not have the responsibility for evaluation of UFO's and therefore would not knowingly be in the business of collecting UFO pictures for evaluation. In addition the office of primary interest for UFO matters is the Department of the Air Force."

Major General Magee did not explain why, under these circumstances, the El Toro Marine Station had borrowed the pictures and why it would be impossible for NORAD also to have borrowed them.

Nearly two months after the sighting the Air Force contacted Heflin and arranged to interview him at his office. On September 23, 1965, Capt. C. F. Reichmuth of the Space Systems Division in Los Angeles questioned Heflin for three and a half hours.

Eventually the Air Force Office of Information in Washington,

D.C., released their official evaluation of Heflin's photos: "The camera was probably focused on a set distance and not on infinity as the terrain background was blurred in all three photographs. The centre white stripe on the road and the object appeared to have the same sharp image. Therefore, it is believed that the object was on the same plane as the centre white stripe (or closer) to the camera and could not possibly be the size reported. Using the width of the road as a factor, the size of the object was estimated to be approximately one to three feet in diameter and 15 to 20 feet above the ground."

It is immediately apparent that there is a difference of opinion regarding the sharpness of the pictures. Chief Photographer Miller of *The Register,* who examined the original prints, stated that the photos looked clear with *all parts* of the picture in focus. The Air Force, who prefaced its evaluation by saying it was based on enlargements made from copies of the original prints, tells us the background is blurred.

I also am a professional photographer and I also made enlargements from copies of the original prints and found them sharp throughout. In fact, the power lines which are parallel to the freeway and which were some 1,500 feet from the camera in the background are finely resolved.

It should be pointed out that the camera which Heflin used—Model 101, Polaroid—makes it very difficult to take pictures in which the background is out of focus. The camera, with a 114 m.m. lens, has an effective aperture of f:42 in black and white operation. This extremely tiny lens opening ensures a tremendous depth of field. (This is the zone of sharpness from closest to farthest points "in focus".) According to Polaroid's calculations even if the camera had been focused as close as 8.5 feet the background would be sharp.

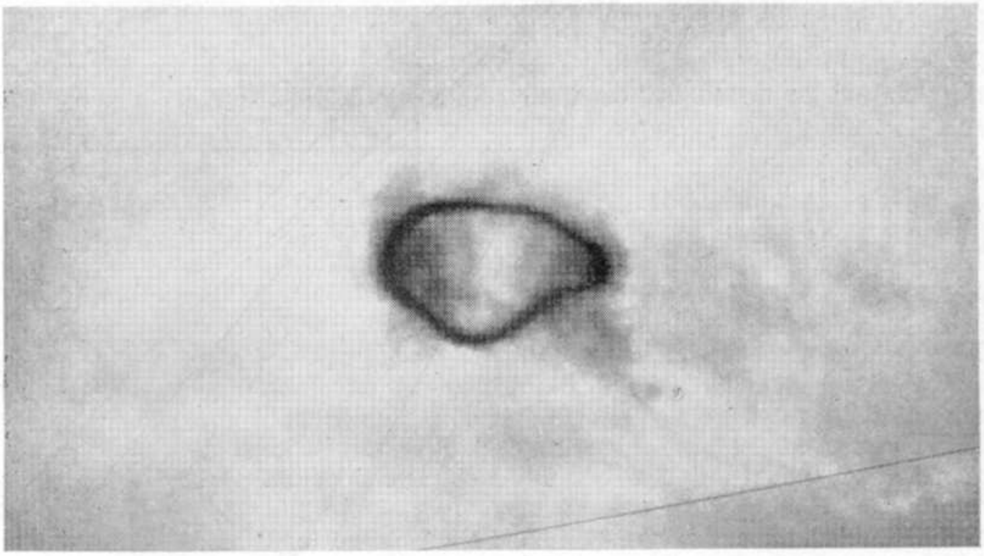
Another statement in the Air Force "evaluation" makes one wonder at their reasoning. They compare the sharpness of the object with the centre white line and conclude that the object is "on the same plane as the centre white stripe (or closer) to the camera." However, since this white stripe runs diagonally from the foreground of the photograph to far off into the distance how can they use this line as a gauge of nearness to the camera? In reality, there are *no two points* on that white stripe which are equally distant from the camera!

Finally, the Air Force's conclusion that the object was estimated to be approximately one to three feet in diameter is disputed by NICAP's investigators, Ed Evers and John Grey, both aerospace engineers. They point out that based on an angular size of two degrees 33 minutes the following sizes and distances would compare:

A one-foot object would have been 22.5 feet from the camera; a two-foot object would have been 45 feet from the camera; and a three-foot object would have been 67 feet from the camera.

In a recently published statement NICAP pointed out, "It is interesting to note that when the pictures first were publicised and before the Air Force had anything but a newspaper print of the pictures to examine a quick statement was issued by the chief investigator at Wright-

Photograph 3. Through the same side-window, just before object began to accelerate away towards the North



Photograph 4. Taken four minutes after No. 3 from outside the truck, after Heflin, so he stated, had driven as near as possible to the smoke-like ring of vapour which remained where UFO was last seen

Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, claiming the object was small and at close range. It appears the Air Force now is trying to bolster this hasty conclusion with a pseudo-scientific analysis."

NICAP has been trying to interest some of the Congressional representatives in Heflin's area to push for a Congressional hearing on this matter. Representative Utt said he would not seek a Congressional hearing unless Heflin requested it. The publicity-shy Heflin said he was undecided and at the time of this writing still had not made up his mind.

Another lawmaker, Representative Hanna, Democrat of Anaheim, Calif., said, "If this NICAP is as responsible as their membership would indicate I feel they should be heard out on their request for Congressional appraisal of the situation."

Hanna added, "I also want strongly to state that I feel every citizen should be accorded courteous treatment when dealing with a public agency, whether that be my office or the Air Force. To be insulting to persons whose actions are well-meaning is something that should not be condoned."

Ed Evers, who got to know Heflin quite well during the investigation, said that the longer he knows Rex the more he trusts and respects him.

Heflin does not enjoy publicity and does not want to write about the experience. He seems to take a minimum interest in UFOs and was extremely careless with the original Polaroid prints. He has resented very much the Air Force inference that he is a liar but now all he wants is to be left alone.

Editor's note : *All Mr. Gibbs-Smith's questions seem to have been taken care of except No. 8. This was : "Considering the strong light which is evidently lighting the UFO from the right, why are there no shadows being cast upon the road by the telegraph poles on the right?"*

Pictures 2, 3 and 4 were taken facing away from the right-hand side of the truck, the direction in which the UFO was said to have disappeared, and stated to be towards the north. Yet in photo 1, the sun's light must be coming from the right-hand side of the truck—and the time was stated to be 11.30 a.m.

I hope Mr. Rankow will be able to clear up this little matter of the direction in which the shots were taken.

A High-Pitched Buzz

by Dan Lloyd

WHEN I first installed my "little black box"—alias the McCarthy UFO detector—it occupied a prominent place in my King's Road, London, flat, and I delighted in running a magnet over it just to prove that the thing *did* buzz. After a while, no naturally-induced buzz having been forthcoming, I moved it into my bedroom, connected it to a battery, and forgot all about it. Some months later I decided to see if it was still responsive to my magnet, but discovered that the battery had run down and the detector was inoperative. As I preferred the simplicity of a battery to the business of connecting the detector to the mains and having to press the reset button every time the lights went out and I put a shilling in the meter, I bought a new battery, fixed it to the detector and resigned myself to a further period of magnetic silence. This silence duly reigned—but only for three days.

At exactly 2.55 a.m. on the morning of Wednesday, October 25, I awoke to an unfamiliar sound. My detector was buzzing its head off! Unless my flat mate had crept into the sitting-room where the detector was installed and run a crafty magnet over it, something was up—decidedly! I leapt out of bed and hurtled into the sitting-room. No crafty flat mate was in sight—he was busy rubbing the sleep from his eyes upstairs—but the detector was there, buzzing like the devil. Rushing to the window-sill, I switched the instrument off and swept the sky with what was intended to be a comprehensive gaze but probably resembled, at that god-forsaken hour, the myopic stare of a startled weasel.

The sky was blank. I raced towards the back of the flat and poked my head out of the kitchen window. Blank again. Then I saw why. Thick, low cloud completely obscured the sky. Whatever was up there was effectively hidden. Even the moon was invisible.

So, although the weather conditions prevented me linking the alarm with a visible object, I had at least been assured of the efficacy of the detector in giving utterance to the presence of a strong magnetic field variation, the first time it had spoken in three months.

It would be interesting to find out whether anyone else in the London area possessing a detector could corroborate this "hearing". If so, please drop a line to the REVIEW, giving details.

I hope shortly to be able to produce a regional list of detector owners so that incidents of this kind can be more promptly confirmed by telephone—providing, of course, the UFOs keep to waking hours!

Postscript

Since writing the above, my detector has been working overtime! It sounded at 9.5 p.m. on November 29, and the following night, the 30th, it sounded *four* times between 7.23 p.m. and 7.27 p.m.* Visibility was excellent on the night of the 29th, but the windows of my flat give only a limited view of the sky and I missed whatever was the cause of the alarm. On the 30th, low cloud prevented the observation of aeroplanes, let alone UFOs.

This burst of activity is certainly evidence that the detector's coil is picking up magnetic changes—but I am still waiting for visual proof that these changes are caused by a UFO. Time, patience and a clear sky will tell!

* In effect, it restarted each time I took my finger away from the reset button.

AN UNUSUAL CONTACT CLAIM FROM OHIO

by John A. Keel

THIS strange case, in which the contact claimant is the Reverend Anthony De Polo of Indianola Road, Boardman, Ohio, assistant pastor of the Bethel Assembly of God Church in Boardman, was investigated by James Capots, Jr., of Columbiana, Ohio, and by myself. The story was reported in the Youngstown (Ohio) *Vindicator* of July 20, 1967.

At about 1.30 a.m. on the morning of July 18, 1967 (Tuesday), Reverend De Polo was awakened by a very loud noise; "the type you hear on television science-fiction programmes". This oscillating sound began at a low pitch and then rose to a high whine until it was no longer audible. However, he said that he continued to experience pressure in his eardrums and he assumed that the sound had risen above 20,000 cycles per second . . . the range of human hearing. This strange noise followed this pattern, rising and falling, three or four times. At a certain point in the curve of sound he distinctly felt that a mental message was somehow being conveyed to him. This message was more a feeling than actual words, but he interpreted it to mean: "Go downstairs".

He headed for the stairs, curious but unafraid. When he reached the foot of the stairs he looked out of a window facing west and there, standing in the driveway between his house and his neighbour's, he saw what he later described as a five-foot tall figure wearing a luminous "space suit". The surrounding glow made the figure very distinct.

At first he thought that some neighbourhood children might be playing a prank of some sort. But he noted that the neighbour's house was dark, and he realised that the glowing suit would be a difficult effect to create.

Something compelled him to step out on to his porch and take a closer look at this strange being. The eerie whine began again and he received a second message which, he says, stated: "You have nothing to fear. I will not harm *you;* and I know you will not harm *me*."

He started to step towards the figure when the whining sound began again and he received a third message: "Danger. I must go."

At this point Reverend De Polo looked up at the sky. There was no "space ship" in sight but he noticed that the sky was strangely illuminated "like the light from a mercury vapour lamp such as they use on the turn-pike". A fourth message was passed on to him and he is not willing to divulge its contents.

When he returned his eyes to the driveway, the "spaceman" was gone. In the exact spot where he had been standing there was a formless blob of light—not figure-shaped—which faded out and vanished in a short while.

Reverend De Polo claims that he was completely unafraid throughout this experience and that he went directly back to bed without saying anything to his wife about it. "I fell asleep immediately," he noted. He decided the next day to say nothing about this incident unless other witnesses came forward and reported the same thing.

The Figure

Reverend De Polo describes the figure as wearing a silver suit which was "more refined and less bulky than those our own astronauts wear". Apparently it was snugly fitted to the being's form. There was a trace of a belt around its middle. The being wore five-fingered gloves and a transparent helmet. He could see that the "spaceman" had human features but he did not get a close enough look so that he could describe them. Nor could he tell whether the being's skin was light or dark. He did not see any tubes, tanks, or other attachments to the suit.

The Witness

Reverend De Polo is in his late thirties, possesses three degrees in psychology and philosophy, and has been a college teacher. He seems to be of above-average intelligence, is very articulate and tells his story in a straightforward manner. Investigator Capots spent some time with him in his home and I interviewed him at length by telephone. He does not tend to embellish his story, nor does he invent details to answer unexpected questions about his experience. I personally believe that this is an exceptionally good witness whose story should be taken very seriously.

An Unexpected Investigation

After other witnesses reported seeing UFOs that night (see Corroboration section), Reverend De Polo told his wife about his experience and mentioned it to a reporter. The Youngstown (Ohio) *Vindicator* mentioned him in their UFO story of July 20, but did not describe his contact.

Two weeks later a group of men arrived at his home and identified themselves as "scientists with B. F. Goodrich in Akron, Ohio". They said they were making a serious study of the UFO phenomenon and asked for the full details of his story. He told them everything, including the contents of the fourth message. When he was finished, the spokesman for the group told him that other contacts of this kind had been made and that they fitted a common pattern. "Other people have received similar messages," they said, "and we want to compare notes." They then asked him to keep the contents of the fourth message to himself, otherwise someone else might use the information to lead them astray. When their study was completed, the spokesman continued, they would turn over all the relevant information to him.

They then requested him to give a speech at a private meeting of Goodrich scientists the following week, on August 15th. Employees of Goodrich were quietly

researching the whole subject. Reverend De Polo obliged them and did visit their plant where he addressed a large and responsive group who afterwards asked many probing and intelligent questions. They said that they were going to file his full report with the Condon Committee in Colorado.

Other Patterns

In my telephone conversation with Reverend De Polo on August 17 I asked a great many background questions and, as is usual in this type of case, found a repeat of many of the patterns now so familiar to me.

He told me that his television had occasionally emitted unusual "bleeping" signals over the past few months. (I have heard this many times in various places around the country, and classify it as "Phase 1".) Probing deeper, I learned that a few months ago he had called in a TV repair man because his set was picking up *voices counting off numbers* and he thought he was "intercepting a ham radio operator from somewhere nearby." (This number-counting business is "Phase 2" in the contactee pattern and is often followed by strange phone calls in which distant-sounding voices continue to recite numbers in patterns.)

Reverend De Polo has received "hundreds" of phone calls since that night, but all were from people who had also seen a UFO. He has not received a single crank call of any kind, nor has he received a number-counting call. Looks like they skipped "Phase 3".

He has not been subjected to any hoaxes or ridicule. When asked if he has heard any strange noises inside in his house since his "contact", he paused and told me that only last night he had heard what sounded like *a baby crying* around 2 a.m. He had wandered through several rooms but could find nothing that could be making such a noise. (This baby-crying phenomenon has been reported to me in cases in West Virginia and Long Island.) Earlier in the evening he and his wife had heard a loud crash in another part of the house but could not find the source.

I asked Reverend De Polo a few questions about his family background. "I've traced my family all the way back to biblical times on my mother's side," he said. But there is no Indian or Egyptian strain in his family that he knows of.

He was born on May 5th, ruling out the odd "March pattern".

Reverend De Polo has had a long-time interest in ESP and he has had numerous experiences which have convinced him that he may be telepathic. Investigator Capots notes in his report: "He tells me that he has ESP in that he can often tell what is on a student's mind before the student verbalises it. I definitely had the impression that he could 'sense' things about me while I talked to him."

The Fourth Message

He would not reveal the fourth message, but he did imply that it concerned a possible return visit from the being. It may have been a statement about others being contacted in the same area. It was *not* a message about the end of the world, or the problems of our atomic experiments.

Corroborating Incidents

Around 9.15 p.m. on July 4, 1967, a mysterious cloud of luminous gas moved down Market Street in nearby Youngstown, Ohio, at ground level. This gas caused eyes to water and produced dizziness and choking. Respiration equipment had to be rushed to the area to aid victims of the gas. (Similar clouds of gas have turned up in Naples, Italy, and southern Long Island in recent months.) This area is only a few miles from Boardman.

There have been many UFO sightings around Boardman in recent months. On the night of Reverend De Polo's alleged experience, July 18, 1967, witnesses in southern Youngstown reported hearing eerie sounds "resembling a dive-bombing plane, a screaming noise", at 1.20 a.m. One witness who glimpsed the object said that it was cigar-shaped, and was flying just above the treetops. He described it as being "a metallic silver blue" and estimated its length to be about seven feet. A powerful odour, resembling the smell of hot tar, clung to the air. While he watched, the thing turned to green, then to an orange-red. The noises stopped and the object flew off southwards *in the direction of Boardman.*

EDITOR'S NOTE: We hope Mr. Keel will explain to readers, in a future note, what precisely he means by "Phase 3", and also by the "Odd 'March pattern' ".

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Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Socorro landing gear

Sir,—A. C. H. Durham has, indeed, caught me in a non-sequitur. If the landing gear of the Socorro craft were rigidly fastened in place, then there is no way to predict the weight distribution on the pads. Without saying so, I was imagining the linkage among the supposed legs to be flexible, in which case the distribution of weight would be automatic.

I have preached so many times to UFO witnesses and analysts about arguing backward from effect to cause that I ought to be embarrassed at such a slip. If I had any principles, I would be. However I trust that none of the readers thought that I was trying to *prove* that my analysis was the only correct one or possible one. Given an end result and plenty of time, one can arrive at the same end result from an endless number of different and even conflicting starting assumptions. The only way to choose one set of assumptions over another is to find some evidence supporting the *assumptions,* not the conclusions. Since I have no evidence about the construction of whatever Zamorra saw, my little exercise in speculation must remain, at best, as food for thought for designers of landing gear.—William T. Powers, 1138 Whitfield Road, Northbrook, Illinois 60062.

Wartime UFO

Sir,—Your letter in today's *Daily Telegraph* prompts me to pass on a small matter which may just possibly be of interest. In or around the year 1942 my father was staying with relatives at Southsea, Hants. He was out walking one day when, as he described afterwards, he saw a cigar-shaped object travelling at tremendous speed in the area of Hayling Island. What struck him, besides the great speed, was the absolute silence of the object. He was at a loss to account for this thing. He was convinced he had seen it. In later years I formed the opinion that the object must have been an early experimental jet, but though this would account for the speed (possibly), it would not account for lack of noise.

Recently I have begun to wonder whether in fact he was seeing what people are calling UFOs. It does seem as though his experience fits in with the accounts of other people I have read about in recent years.

Being of a sceptical nature, I have very much reserved my judgment on the UFOs, but reading between the lines, it does seem as though certain authorities, especially in the United States, are giving more consideration to the matter than they are willing to admit publicly. The whole matter is bedevilled by sensationalism. I regret more serious study was not mentioned in the recent article to which you refer in your letter.—"A Clergyman" (name and address supplied).

Manipulating the news

Sir,—A method of "News Management", as it was first called in Washington, has come to Whitehall in a big way. This is the manipulation of official information given to the public by various Ministries, its major function being to keep the Government's image as bright as possible. First official admission that the men operating this machine are made to issue totally false statements to the public emerged recently from a report given by Mr. Chapman Pincher of the *Daily Express.* He revealed that officials of the Defence Ministry, the Foreign Office and the Post Office were all instructed to issue misleading statements to the newspapers to cover up an activity which the Government did not want exposed. In spite of this exposure, the practice continues. Not withstanding that this doubtful practice usually relates to the D-Notice system, which advises newspapers on security matters, it will be apparent to UFO researchers that this could quite well operate with reference to release of information concerning UFOs. Mr. Pincher concluded his article by stating that "the public should be even more concerned about the disinformation (i.e. false statements) being issued for home consumption by Whitehall".

Let us look at the emphatic and official explanations given to the recent wave of saucer activity. Sir Bernard Lovell: "I am convinced that most sightings are merely Venus or manifestations of some other natural phenomena". Note that this is a statement of fact, to be sure and which we fully admit to, but used in this instance as a blanket statement covering the many reports published during this period.

A U.S. Air Force Base reports that refuelling exercises have been held on three nights of the period of the October "flap", entailing "planes flying alongside a powerfully lit giant jet tanker in a cross-shape formation". Not until actually being asked by a *Sunday Express* reporter was it revealed that this refuelling took place between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m., recent sightings being in the early hours.

The Ministry of Defence officially admitted that this explanation could no longer be valid, and stated: "It looks as if there is still no rational explanation for the object reported being seen". According to the Ministry, the R.A.F. last year (1966) investigated 95 sightings. Twenty-nine were satellites, 9 were satellite debris, 10 were balloons, 5 were celestial phenomena, 5 were meteorological phenomena, 17 were aircraft, 15 were miscellaneous and *5 remain classified as unidentified.* This year they had received a total of 153 sightings, plus, of course, the many more of recent activity.—John D. Llewellyn, Area Investigator—B.U.F.O.R.A., 63 Masons Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.

MISSING MENTIONS

A READER has remarked on similarities between certain passages in Coral and Jim Lorenzen's recent paperback **Flying Saucer Occupants,*** and passages in Gordon Creighton's article in *The Humanoids.* I can put our reader's mind at rest on that score, for while preparing the book, Mrs. Lorenzen asked for permission to quote certain cases from our special issue—for which publication she had herself written an excellent article. There was never any question of permission being withheld, and it was expected only that if the authors used cases from *The Humanoids*, then due acknowledgements would be accorded. In fact mentions of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and its special issue are duly listed in an appendix of recommended reading at the tail end of the book: there is also an occasional reference to the REVIEW in the text.

Nevertheless, it is felt that the authors were cavalier towards Mr. Creighton, for there is neither mention of him, nor is there acknowledgement of the mountain of research he had done, or translations he had made from original source material in Spanish and Portuguese. Furthermore these sources are not mentioned, although they were punctiliously listed in Mr. Creighton's article in *The Humanoids.*

C.B.

* Signet Books.

A SIGHTING FROM NEWLANDS CORNER

by S/Ldr. D. E. B. K. Shipwright, KT. ST. J., F.R.S.A.

Our contributor is Chairman of the NE Surrey Group "Contact" (UFO Investigation), a post which he accepted after making the sighting described in this article. The incident is one of those included, in condensed form, in Dan Lloyd's compilation in our November/December WORLD ROUND-UP column.

LET me say at the outset that before this experience neither my wife nor I had anything to do whatsoever with UFO Associations, we knew nothing about their work, and the last thing we expected to experience was this unusual phenomenon of an unidentified flying object. It was only because similar sightings had been observed in this area about the same time that we contacted the local UFO organisations, and became subsequently involved.

About 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27, 1967, a fine, sunny day with no clouds, my wife and I were walking from Newlands Corner due westwards along the top of the Downs south of the fringe of trees, towards One Tree Hill Road where we had left our car. Looking across the countryside towards Albury Church we observed a white, elongated object, about three times the size of a horse, which appeared to be travelling fairly rapidly up and down (North and South) in a straight line on the ground well to the West of a large L-shaped field lying to the South-West of Albury Church, and about a quarter of a mile from the church. This field is situated about 1¼ miles from the position from which we looked across the valley which borders the Wonersh-Albury main road.

We observed this movement for about ten minutes (how long it had already been doing this we do not know). The object then hesitated when it reached the hedge at the top of the field, which sloped at this point, then appeared to become quite circular like a silvery white disc or balloon, and then proceeded quite slowly to go Eastward close to the hedge. It continued on its way along the ground (incidentally going through a barbed-wire fence which at that time we could not see) until it came to an open part of the field: it there seemed to pause for a few seconds, then proceeded across the open field towards a number of cows which were grazing just below it. The object passed within ten to fifteen yards of the cows who appeared to pay no attention to it, or even to see it.

On reaching a large avenue of trees which border and overhang Birmingham Lane, the object paused some yards from the trees (the branches overhang considerably here) and to our astonishment slowly rose in the air and appeared literally to walk along the tops of the trees quite slowly, and then to descend into the next field in which Birmingham farm is situated. It continued on its course, proceeding Eastwards, passing not more than twenty yards or so from the farm (which we subsequently investigated). We last saw it still proceeding slowly across this field along the ground, again through another solid fence without appearing to rise over it, towards the next belt of trees in the direction of Albury Park. It was now after 1.30 p.m. and my wife wanted her lunch, satisfied that she had seen what we subsequently knew was a UFO or "Flying Saucer".

Follow-up

Having contacted the Secretary of the NE Surrey Branch UFO Investigation Group some days later, the Secretary (Jimmy Goddard) and his father, my wife and I visited the sighting position the following Tuesday (July 4). We then proceeded to the field after obtaining the permission of Mr. Blake of Weston Farm, Albury, who owned the field of 68 acres.

On arriving at the position in the field where we first saw the object moving rapidly from North to South and South to North, we found a wide track (about twenty yards across) of numerous pieces of sandstone of various sizes, on a number of which appeared markings of triangles and/or crosses.

The largest of these had a perfect triangle (possibly sandblasted) cut on it, the apex had a small line cut and pointing due magnetic North and exactly towards the spot on the other side of the valley where we first observed this object. No other part of this very large field appeared to have any pieces of sandstone. We found this piece in the centre of the track of the UFO. It was about 18 in. × 12 in. in size and could just be lifted by two persons.

We then followed the track of the UFO, and just before the open space that it traversed we found a barbed-wire fence and two large beams of wood between two posts by the hedge dividing the field at this part. This fence can be seen from the sighting position with good field-glasses—which we did not have at the time of the sighting. The UFO *did not pause or rise* at this position as it proceeded on its course.

We followed its course across the open field where it appeared to have passed a few yards from the last post which supported an electrified cable which went from this post down the field to the bottom. The UFO passed just beside it and quite close to the cows.

We then reached the avenue of very tall trees whose top branches overhang quite considerably. I mention this because if this object had proceeded right up to the hedge against the trees it could not have risen above them without retreating quite a few yards backwards. Otherwise it would have got caught underneath the overhanging branches.

Mr. C. H. Sharp, the farmer who owns Birmingham Farm, had no reports of anything similar being observed by anyone at this time, and no one in the vicinity of Albury Village appears to have seen this object, which must have been quite conspicuous (if visible to anyone within close proximity to it). Mr. Blake also states nothing observed, and as far as he knows nobody has been over that field recently for any purpose whatsoever. It is somewhat inaccessible, and in a remote part of the countryside, being seen better from the other side of the valley (sighting position) than Albury itself.

Mr. Ransome, of the Drummond Arms Hotel, Albury, has heard no reports either.

Observations

The weather was perfect, visibility 100%. Sun overhead, no shadows. Wind very slight southerly, which could have had no effect upon the object as at the southern side of the field, and alongside the hedge, there is an extensive wood which completely shelters the field from any southerly breeze. In any case the object first progressed North to South and South to North, then turned due East. The

Arrowed; the L-shaped field

point at which it changed direction to East appeared to be marked by a circular depression about 4 to 5 ft. in diameter and about 6 to 8 in. deep, entirely of sand, with no grass at all.

The object looked at first like an elongated white balloon, but when it changed direction it became perfectly circular like a spinning disc or a balloon. It looked very white and shining. It appeared to move Eastward quite slowly and deliberately, as though it were probing or measuring, and its movements were certainly not haphazard; it appeared to be motivated by some deliberate force.

When it paused before ascending to the treetops, a very slight pulsating appeared on the top left-hand side, like inflation and deflation, but it was difficult to be quite sure of this owing to the distance away from us.

The site on the Ordnance Map is marked as "Birget Hill", which is situated at the top (southerly) side of the field against the hedge by the wood along which the object passed.

As it progressed along the tops of the trees it appeared just to touch them very lightly before gently descending into the next field.

The fences through which it passed appeared to offer no problem, and we saw no sign of pausing or rising at these obstacles. It progressed definitely along the surface of the ground without stopping at all. It obviously took care not to touch the electrified cable which ran at right angles to it, it kept clear of the last post which connected this cable by quite a few yards. Parallel to its course on the other side was a line of newly-sown earth, which it kept some yards to its right (South). It had to change its course very slightly to the left to avoid these obstacles as it crossed the open part of the field.

TWENTY YEARS BACK—4

by Briusley Le Poer Trench

DURING the last year many UFO reports have come from police officers stationed in various parts of England. However, sightings by police officers are nothing new, certainly not to the police force of Portland, Oregon, in the U.S.A.

More than twenty years ago, on July 4, 1947, the citizens and police of Portland were participants in a real-life drama staged in their city which went on all through the day.

The curtain went up for the first scene at 11 a.m., when the first report came into police headquarters from the occupants of a car near Redmond who spotted four discs speeding past Mount Jefferson.

Then the police got in on the act. At 1.05 p.m. a policeman was in the car park at the rear of the Portland City Police Headquarters. He first noticed something unusual when some pigeons started to behave in an odd manner, fluttering around as if scared. He looked up and spotted two large discs travelling south and three more going east. The objects were oscillating as they flew. This seems to be a common feature of many saucer sightings. The ones that Arnold saw on June 24, earlier that year, moved in a strange fashion, too. A few minutes later, two more police officers (both ex-pilots) reported three UFOs flying in a line.

The scene now changed again. This time it was the turn of the Harbour Patrol to take the stage. They contacted headquarters with a report from four patrolmen who had seen several discs travelling at high speed and these also oscillated as they flew.

Then the citizens of Portland came on again. Ruppelt reported in his excellent book that a man saw one disc going east and two going north. At 4.30 p.m. a woman contacted police headquarters to report that she had seen one.

Our story is not entirely devoted to Portland. Other places do have part in this amazing day. In Vancouver, Washington, *between twenty and thirty* discs were seen by sheriff's deputies.

The last act of this fantastic day was a report from the pilot of a United Airlines plane flying near Emmett, Idaho. The crew saw five objects shortly after the plane took off from Boise at 8.04 p.m. The pilot said afterwards that they were not aircraft, clouds or smoke. The plane followed the UFOs for about 45 miles before they finally disappeared.

And so the curtain came down on one of the most eventful and dramatic days in the flying saucer story.

Reference

The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects by Edward J. Ruppelt. Former Head of the United States Project Blue Book investigating flying saucers. Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, New York, 1956.

BOOK REVIEW

Message from the Past

The search for clues of flying saucers in the past has entered yet another field, as will be seen from this excerpt from a new book:—

"It is possible . . . by an analysis of British dragon legends to discover . . . hills where sacrifices to the former flying saucer gods took place.

"Many of them are found in the north of England and in Scotland. The Worm of Linton in Roxburghshire coiled itself round a hill now known as 'Wormistone' and by the suction of its poisonous breath drew all the local crops and cattle into its mouth. The Laird of Lariston was the hero who killed it by thrusting a lump of peat coated in burning pitch between its jaws. The Worm in its death throes scored a great spiral into the hill of the sort which can be seen at other such places including Glastonbury Tor."

This is but one of many legends which the author of a new book argues may be equated to aerial visitations, in bygone days, of extraterrestrial craft and their occupants.

"The dragon," he writes, "is a synonym for the flying saucers, the airships of the gods, in the past; any hill or mound which features in an original dragon legend must have been one of the high places of sacrifice, where the gods received their tribute."

In **The Flying Saucer Vision** (Sidgwick and Jackson Ltd., 1 Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London, W.C.1—price 25s.) author **John Michell** puts reasoned arguments for this idea, and for many others. He also contrives to tidy-up previous attempts to link with the UFO story certain aspects of history, religion, folklore and folk memories, of "fairy" legends and an "elite" race, and of human disappearances.

The finished product, the outcome of much painstaking research, is worthy of Mr. Michell's undoubted scholarship, and conveys a pleasing, albeit highly speculative, overall picture. While some readers will prefer to take Mr. Michell's hypothesis with a few grains of salt, many others will find his ideas intriguing, or even wholly acceptable. He sees in many customs and rites, in ancient monuments and in "topographical" features like dragon hills, evidence that space visitors were here on earth long ago, and that the legends point to the fact that the ancients yearned for their return.

The mind boggles at the suggestion that that "incredibly accurate observatory and computer", Stonehenge, was constructed in the familiar "sacred disc" shape as a giant beacon to attract expected sky visitors—its flying saucer shape being discernible only from above. Indeed, the author suggests it could have-been a "sort of cargo cult monument", a cult vitiated by folk memories of visitations which had preceded vast physical and social changes.

Has this ancient vision reasserted itself as man moves away from the traditional beliefs of the last 1,900 years? Does the message from the past indicate that our present flying saucer era betokens great changes to come, with extraterrestrials genuinely concerned with the welfare of mankind? Strong meat for many, but thought-provoking, nonetheless, for the author puts forward some good arguments.

It is of interest to see that Mr. Michell does not scorn the contactee claims, or cast them aside unreasoningly: for him they occupy a niche—alongside such cases as A. Villas Boas, the Hills and Valensole—in the overall picture of the flying saucer vision.

Charles Bowen

Postscript: I was alarmed to see in the "Books Consulted" section that FLYING SAUCER REVIEW is listed in such a way that readers will be misled into believing that it is the work of Albert K. Bender. I trust this mistake will be put right in any future binding or reprinting. **C.B.**

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED . . .

UNINVITED VISITORS, by biologist **Ivan T. Sanderson.** A new look at UFOs, published by the Cowles Education Corporation, LOOK Building, 488, Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022, USA Price $6.95.

SCIENCE, THE PUBLIC AND THE UFO, by **Arthur Bray,** former RCAF pilot. Published by Bray Book Service, PO Box 5051, Postal Station F, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Price: Hard cover $5.50, Paperback $2.75.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES FOR SALE

Magazines:	Each
Dell's FLYING SAUCERS: Nos. 2, 3 and 4	5/6
Palmer's FLYING SAUCERS: Nos. 52, 53, 54 and 55	5/6
FLYING SAUCER MENACE (many photos)	4/3
AUSTRALIAN F.S.R. (Sydney) No. 10 (1967) ..	5/6
SPACELINK: December 1967, Vol. 5, No. 1	3/6
FLYING SAUCER NEWS and Bulletins (12 in all), Set Ex. B.F.S.B. Valuable historical material, 1953-57 ..	10/-
Recent Books:	
FLYING SAUCERS ARE HOSTILE, Steiger and Whritenour	5/6
FLYING SAUCER VISION, John Michell ..	26/-
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World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

ENGLAND

Ominous?

An extract from *Hansard* House of Commons reports for November 22, 1967—

"**Mr. Wall** asked the Secretary of State for Defence what exchange of information or other co-operation is taking place between his Department and the official United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics investigations into the problem of unidentified flying objects.

"**Mr. Merlyn Rees:** We are in touch with the Americans on this subject but not with the Russians. I understand the conclusions which the Americans have reached coincide with ours."

[*Did the Minister have the Colorado Project in mind when he replied to Mr. Patrick Wall—or just Project Blue Book?—EDITOR.*]

Malvern schoolboys report landing

A correspondent of the Malvern *Gazette* of November 2, 1967, reported an investigation he had made into a claim by two schoolboys:—

"Then on Tuesday [October 31] I went in search of (a) reported UFO. This had not only been seen, but seen to land, by two boys, both aged 14 years, from the Chase School—Clive Robinson, of Ashdown Close, and Richard Corben, of Pickersleigh Road. With them was David Jennings. They claimed to have seen a 'dome-shaped object with a smaller hump on the top.'

"In company with their headmaster, Mr. P. Garth, I asked them about what they had seen. Mr. Garth had spoken to them of the danger of making up stories, and although I questioned them closely, as did Mr. Garth, they were not to be shaken.

"I must say I was rather sceptical, but they were definite about what they had seen. Though I varied my questions they were not deflected in their answers.

"Clive describes the sighting as a 'dome-shaped object with a smaller hump on the top. It was rather like an apple pie with a ump on it.'

"They saw it between 8.45 p.m. and 9.5 p.m. the previous Wednesday evening [October 25] over the Girls' College playing field. They saw it land behind a pavilion where there was an oak tree and he thought also an ash.

"On the playing field there is a pavilion and some trees, including a large ash.

"My next question referred to reports of them having been 'petrified with fear' on seeing the UFO and then running away. Richard promptly discounted this.

"The object, said Clive, was a 'glimmering, bright light.' No, they did not see any legs under the craft. No, it had no windows.

"How far away from them was it? About 200 yards, said Clive.

"What happened when it landed? Did it disintegrate? 'It was still down when we looked back, then it took off diagonally,' Clive replied.

"Mr. Garth asked him why they did not go over to the object when they saw it land. 'We thought there might have been radio-activity. We did not know what was happening' the boy explained.

"When I asked about the weather conditions they said these were clear though it had been raining. There was some cloud, but not low cloud.

"Clive said: 'The object was in two halves split vertically down the centre. Suddenly the halves came together and the object drifted down to the ground.'

"He added that a man, who he thinks gave his name as Tandy and was about 35 years old, went to see him on Friday and asked about what they had seen.

"They went back to the field where the man pointed out some triangular marks on the ground about two inches in size and in an arc. They had been marked out with sticks. There was no grass inside the marks, but it had not been burnt.

"Clive added that on the Friday there were about 12 marks but when he went back the next day there appeared to be only about five, the others having been covered up with mud.

"Asked whether he had noticed anything under the craft as it came down and how it had landed, Clive said: 'It came down gently. We saw nothing under it at all. We honestly believe we saw it.'"

—Credit: **Miss Betty Allen** of Malvern.

Miss Allen tells, in her letter, that she also met and questioned Clive Robinson. Her letter continues: "In this report he says he saw no legs under the craft. But he told me it had 'lots of legs.' Yet this report mentions the triangul ar marks left by th 'feet' of the object."

"Waves" of UFOs over Stratford-upon-Avon

We learned from the Stratford *Herald* of November 10, 1967, that:—

"When 13-year-old grammar schoolgirl Susan Page looked out of her bedroom window just after 7 a.m. last Thursday morning, the last thing she expected to see were flying saucers. But there, travelling above the scurrying clouds, were two of them, bright and unmistakable. She called her father, Councillor James Page, and her mother, Joyce.

"Mrs. Page takes up the story: 'The first two seemed to be flying one above the other and the top one had another malls bright light in front of it. They came from a north-east direction and flew to the south-west. They were completely silent.'

"The Pages live at Blue Cap Road, Stratford, and the back windows of their home have a wide, uninterrupted view.

"'After the first two, three more of them came along and one of these also had a little bright light in front of it. They were not quite round—more like the decorations you get on Christmas trees. They were not going as fast as an aeroplane and we watched them for about 15 minutes.

"'There were no stars in the sky, but in any case the objects were too bright and travelling too fast to have been stars,' Mrs. Page told the *Herald*.

"Finally, when the first two formations had passed out of sight, yet another two appeared. 'By this time the sun was rising and the light from it blotted out the last two things.'

"'All the objects were extremely bright, but they varied slightly in intensity,' she said.

"Councillor Page reported the matter to the police. Inspector T. Barr said, 'We got the report on Saturday. They were described to us as having a round, bright area in the middle with a darker area round the edges—like large hovercraft.'

"County police headquarters at Leek Wootton confirmed that they, too, had received the report from Stratford and added that reports of sightings of UFOs had come in from several other parts of the county."

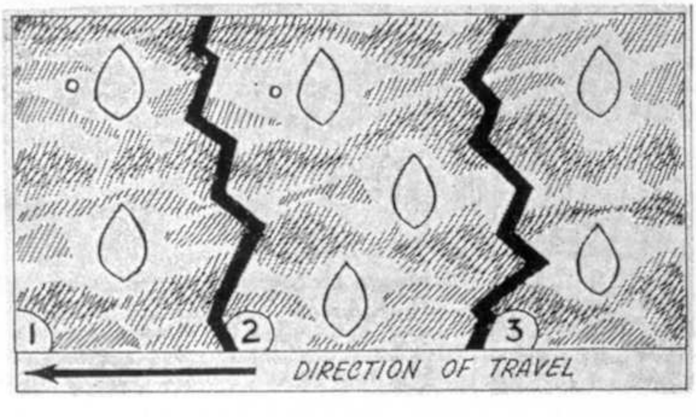
—Credit: **John D. Llewellyn,** Stratford-upon-Avon.

Explanation launched in Alaska lands in Devon

Under a misleading headline, "Devon UFO launched in Alaska", the *Daily Telegraph* of November 28 published an item which indicates just how easy it is for some people to clutch explanatory straws where UFOs are concerned. It seems to be of no account that the facts don't fit:—

"A giant magnetic survey balloon which landed in a field near Barnstaple, Devon, had drifted nearly from Alaska, a distance of about 5,000 miles, in a week.

"The white balloon, about 80 ft. in diameter, was launched from the College Magnetic and Seismological Observatory, Fairbanks. Scientists there were astonished



Sketch of the waves of objects (from the Stratford *Herald*)

yesterday to learn where it landed.

"The balloon came down on Sunday at Little Knightacott, near Barnstaple. Devon police said last night it might help explain reports of fiery crosses and other unidentified flying objects seen over the West Country.

"Equipment with the balloon included a parachute, two small boxes of equipment, a flashing red light, a radio transmitter and metal cross antenna. This will be flown back to Alaska by the American Air Force.

"A reward of up to $100 (£41) was offered by the observatory for recovery of the equipment. Huge balloons have been launched in Alaska for the last two weeks as part of a project to study variations of the earth's magnetic field.

"Mr. Jack Townshend, director of the observatory, said yesterday: 'We thought most of our balloons would come down in remote parts of Alaska and never be found.' He agreed that the balloons, with their flashing red lights, could have prompted reports of flying saucers.

" 'In the past few days we've been having trouble keeping balloons in the air because of unusual turbulence,' Mr. Townshend said. They were designed to drift at an altitude of 21 miles—a height at which winds had been unusually strong.

"Each balloon is equipped with a device designed to burst it after it has been aloft for a certain time. The object of this is to reduce the danger to aircraft."

[*As far as we know there were no UFO reports from Devon on Sunday, November 26. Even with imaginations at full stretch, a random balloon which landed on that date—and which was part of an exercise that commenced in the middle of November—cannot possibly be used to explain away the sightings in southern England during October.—EDITOR.*]

AUSTRALIA

Saucer lands at Yerecoin

This unusual landing report is taken from *The West Australian* of November 17, 1967:—

"Yerecoin farm manager Alan Pool (43) said yesterday that a flying saucer had landed in one of his paddocks a few feet from him.

"It was so close that he was unable to fully open the door of the vehicle in which he was sitting.

"Mr. Pool's employer, Mr. D. V. Waters, of Yerecoin, who owns the farm, said that Mr. Pool had worked for him for 11 years.

"Mr. Pool said that he was in his vehicle in a paddock about a mile away from the farmhouse at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday when he heard a loud, penetrating humming similar to that of an electric generator.

"He said: 'I thought at first that something was wrong with my vehicle. It sounded like an overtaxed generator. I saw this thing about 400 ft. up in the air, half a mile away, and approaching rapidly from the east. I thought it was an aircraft. It sped towards me and landed next to the vehicle.

" 'The whining noise was loud and frightening.'

"He said it seemed to land, but when he looked closer it was hovering a few inches from the ground. It was a grey metal colour, about 12 ft. in diameter and about 6 ft. high. There were six portholes. Two in the centre were square and two more on each side were round.

"It looked like an inverted saucer. There were no other protruding features. There were no signs of propulsion and he could not see through the portholes.

"Mr. Pool said: 'I did not know what to do. I partly opened the door and swore aloud.

" 'To my astonishment the words were repeated.

" 'It could not have been an echo. There was a strong wind and it would have been impossible to receive an echo in that position.

" 'I partly opened the door and got one leg out of the vehicle when the saucer took off, vertically. I lost sight of it as it rose above the roof of the vehicle. I pushed my head outside and looked up, but it had vanished.'

"He said that he thought he was going mad. He sat in the vehicle in fright and rolled a cigarette. Then he got out of the vehicle and looked at the ground—but there was no sign of where the saucer had been. The grass was undisturbed and there were no burn marks.

"He did not know whether to report the sighting or to say nothing about it. He finally decided to drive home and tell his wife.

"His wife told him that she had been watching television at the time and had noticed the picture roll. The only time this had happened before was when a satellite passed overhead.

"Mr. Pool reported the sighting to the New Norcia police, who advised him to telephone the C.I.B. in Perth.

"He also telephoned the Pearce R.A.A.F. base, but he said the people there sounded sceptical.

"He thought that the white roof of his vehicle might have attracted the flying saucer.

"Mr. Waters said Mr. Pool was very level-headed.

"He said: 'Alan came to see me about an hour afterwards and he was still frightened. He was white-faced.'

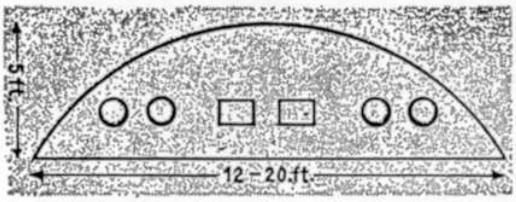
"Wing-Commander G. Shadforth, of the R.A.A.F. at Pearce, said that no aircraft from the base was flying at the time of the reported sighting and nothing was picked up on radar.

"Mr. Pool's report of the saucer was the only one received on Wednesday night.

"A spokesman for air traffic control at the Perth airport said there would have been many aircraft in the New Norcia area at the time of the reported sighting. These would range in size from a *Friendship* to light planes.

"A Weather Bureau spokesman said the only weather balloon released on Wednesday evening went from the Perth airport at 7.15 p.m."

—Credit: **Roy W. Woodward,** Finucane Island, W.A. (And to UFO Information Retrieval Center, Inc., P.O. Box 57, Riderwood, Maryland 21139, who drew our attention to the incident.)



Artist's impression of the object which Mr. Alan Pool says landed near him

NOTE: The area is some 75 miles north of Perth and 50 miles north of the R.A.A.F. station.

John Coyle's photographs

Several versions of the story of this witness, who claims to have photographed an alleged UFO, have been seen. Thanks to our friends of the **Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society,** we now have a set of the prints. The following account, taken from the *Australasian Post* of July 6, 1967, is part of an article based on an interview with Paul Norman, well known to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW readers for his articles on electromagnetic effects of UFOs:

Two of the John Coyle photographs. The other four prints show a (side-on ?) view rather like that in the top photograph, but smaller

"Copies of the photographs, taken by John Coyle [15] with a small box-type camera, have been retained by the [Colorado] University experts who say they are authentic.

"The photographs show a saucer-shaped object that hovered over John and his sister, Miriam, for at least 2½ minutes before flying off at a speed they described as 'quicker than sound'.

"This is John Coyle's story: 'We were walking through farmland near the Hallam railway station about 5.30 on the afternoon of March 5 to take photographs of a country train that was to pass through.

" 'On the way home I saw what I thought was a very fast aeroplane coming towards us. Pretty soon it was right over us and

Watkins

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circling around. I was excited and took some snaps of it and hoped they would be clear enough to show other people what we saw.

" 'Miriam was jumping up and down and squealing, and I got nervous and broke the winding knob off my camera. But I got half a dozen shots of it'.

"John described the object as being a silver colour with a dark patch underneath it. He said he thought it had a 'kind of dome in the middle' that came out for an instant and then disappeared.

"Was it a Flying Saucer? 'If it wasn't, what was it, then?' asks Paul Norman. Perhaps the scientists at Colorado University UFO Headquarters will come up with the answers."

Credit: Mrs. Judith Magee, VFSRS, P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, 3189, Victoria, Australia.

CANADA

UFO takes the plunge?

The Johannesburg *Star* of October 9, 1967, carried the following account, datelined Monday (October 9), from Montreal, Canada:—

"Canadian Navy divers are conducting a search for an unidentified flying object which was reported to have disappeared under water near Shag Harbour in the province of Nova Scotia.

"So far, the divers have had no success in finding the object, which was seen to fall into the water by Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and private citizens, on Wednesday [October 4.]

"A Navy spokesman said that those who had seen the object could not describe it very clearly, but were agreed that it was over 60 ft. long, and dark, with four white lights."

—Credit: **H. Maclear Bate.**

INDIA

Shillong saucer

Very few reports ever reach this REVIEW from the Indian sub-continent, so it was particularly interesting to read these accounts from *The Times of India* of October 18 and 19 respectively:—

"Shillong, October 17: An object resembling a flying saucer was noticed on Friday evening near Laitkor village, 18 miles from Shillong, the police said here today. The object was reportedly seen racing across the sky with a loud report. According to some villagers, trees past which the object had cut its way carried marks that looked like saw cuts.

"P.T.I. adds: The object is said to have landed in a running stream, close to the dak bungalow of Dympep village, 16 miles from Shillong, on Friday evening.

"The flying saucer was first noticed by Laitkor villagers, where it was reported to have spun like a top 500 feet above the earth, emitting bright red and green lights.

"Reports quoting eye-witnesses stated that the object sucked and churned the water with loud and deafening explosions. From the stream, the object flew towards Mawkdok village, three miles away, and then towards the dense woods.—P.T.I."

"Shillong, October 18: Police inquiries yesterday into the appearance of a mysterious saucer-shaped flying object in the Khasi Hills of Assam last Friday, revealed that considerable damage has been done to the dense vegetation in the Lum Swer forest through which the flying object is reported to have passed before disappearing.

"The villagers of nearby area, roughly half-way between Cherrapunjee and Shillong, testified that they heard three loud sounds during the half-an-hour while the 'saucer' was hovering about in the neighbourhood.

"The eastern wing of the Indian Air Force is reportedly probing into the mysterious incident.—P.T.I."

An explanation followed in *The Times of India* of October 20, from which we quote the opening paragraphs:—

"The appearance of a mysterious object, said to resemble a 'flying saucer', at Laitkorh village in Khasi hills on Friday, has been explained as a meteorological phenomenon.

"An inquiry conducted by a magistrate, Air Force authorities and the police reached the conclusion that the episode was 'a meteorological phenomenon termed a whirlwind of high intensity' but of a local nature only."

—Credit: **Jal N. D. Tata** of Bombay.

HOLLAND

Arnhem blackout and UFO

The following extracts are taken from the *Arnhemse Courant* of November 14, 1967:—

"A mysterious, as yet unexplained failure in the high-tension-circuit wrapped in darkness the whole north-western part of Arnhem last night. Also large parts of the city, the boulevards, Willems-square, Station-square and Zypse-square, were without electricity.

"It was remarkable that the power failure did not appear everywhere simultaneously. In the district of Heyenoord the lights went out at half-past six in the afternoon, while it was three-quarters of an hour later before the city blacked out.

"The power failure in the north-western part of Arnhem lasted for about two hours; in the city the duration was only twenty minutes. The power failure caused many difficulties to lots of institutions like cafes, restaurants, public transport, etc. . . .

"About the cause of the failure still nothing is known. Ir. H. L. ten Cate, managing-director of the municipal electricity supply says: 'It was a complicated failure about the cause of which we don't know anything. We are still investigating. It is quite possible that certain relays were not properly adjusted.'

"Numerous switches went out automatically. Very carefully the circuit has been built up again. This took two hours. According to Ir. ten Cate: 'The failure lasted much longer than we are used to, and it spread over a large area.'

"For curiosity's sake we also report that our journal has been 'phoned this morning several times by people who at the time of the power failure observed a luminous flying object over Arnhem, which slowly moved in a northerly direction and which they could not identify as an aeroplane.

"The meteorological-department of the Deelen-Air Force Base (five kilometres to the north of Arnhem) did not notice anything peculiar."

—Credit: **W. H. G. Wooninck** of Arnhem, to whom we are also grateful for having provided the translation.

U.S.A.

UFO knockout?

From the *Canada Guardian* (?) of August 28, 1967, comes the following strange story from East Side, New York:—

"A Clifton Springs man told city police a story right out of a science fiction magazine after an officer found him in a dazed condition on Eastern Boulevard near Nichols Department Store early yesterday morning.

"Tony Moracco, who listed his home as the Foster building, Clifton Springs, related a strange story of having seen a large flying saucer-type object and then blacking out for more than three hours.

"According to Patrolman Robert Haight, Moracco said he was walking along Eastern Boulevard near the intersection with East Lake Road about 10.30 Saturday night when he suddenly noticed a 'large object about 70 feet over his head. The object was about 250 feet in diameter and had orange and green lights. The outer 20 feet of the object rotated.'

"This is the last thing Moracco said he could remember until Haight found him on Eastern Boulevard near Nichols Store.

"The officer said he found Moracco 'in a dazed condition at about 1.50 a.m.' after receiving a report that a man was at the side of the highway.

"Haight added, 'The subject was not intoxicated.' "

—Credit: **Ralph C. Stephen, Jr.** of Arlington, Texas.

Idaho landing and creature report

From the Santa Ana *Register* of November 3, 1967, a U.P.I. story from Ririe, Idaho:—

"A flying saucer with two men three feet tall landed on the top of a car here Thursday night and forced the two men inside to stop and talk to them.

"Will Begay and Clyde Soccie, both in their early 20s and from Ririe, told the Bonneville County sheriff's office here that their car was unmanageable after the saucer landed on it. So they got out and talked to the visitors.

"The report said 'that a power bigger than they could cope with forced them off the road.'

" 'Two people about three feet tall got out of the flying saucer and tried to talk to Begay and Soccie but the men said they couldn't understand them,' the police report said.

"After the futile effort of interplanetary relations, the visitors went back inside their vehicle and scooted off for space.

"Two deputies went out to the meeting grounds a half mile south of here on U.S. 26 with Geiger counters. No trace of unusual radioactivity was discovered.

"The strangest part of the story was that Begay and Soccie were 'sober', officers said."

—Credit: **Dr. James Hershey** of Huntington Beach, California.

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